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Hiru no Hoshi

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*"The soul
hath been
created
for the
remembrance
of the Friend;
safeguard its
purity."*

Baha' u' llah

What does this mean?

“The soul hath been created for the remembrance of the Friend; safeguard its purity.”

Baha'u'llah

In this quotation Baha'u'llah is saying that the soul was created so that it could know “the Friend” this is another way of saying “God”. Our soul was created so that we could speak to God and grow closer to God. We need to keep our Soul clean and pure so that we can do that.

Our soul is the real ‘us’. Basically what this is saying is that we were made to grow closer to God, and to do this we have to keep our soul clean. We can do that with good thoughts, good words and good deeds.



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Precious Pet

Mother walked in and saw Asma and Riaz in front of the T.V. playing Mario Brothers. The video game their aunt had given them.

“It is a beautiful day, go out and play!” said Mother.

“This is more fun!” said Riaz. Besides, I am almost going to finally beat Asma.”

Shahla was sitting watching them. “Yeah go outside, so we girls can watch ‘Beauty and the Beast’” she shouted.

Mother sighed. “NO! I mean all of you go outside. Your precious little pets are going to get weak and sickly sitting in the house not getting any fresh air, exercise or sunshine!”

All five children stopped what they were doing and looked at Mother in surprise. “Pets? What pets?” At the moment none of them had any pets. “Did mother get us some new pets to surprise us?” Their unspoken questions were clearly seen in their faces.

Mona, the oldest, was the first to speak. “Did you get us a pet?”

Mother laughed. “No, the ‘Pets’ I am talking about are the ones God gave you when you were still inside me.”

Now all of the children were sure Mother had gone quite crazy.

“WHAT!” shouted Riaz. “What are you talking about!!”

Mother reached over and gave Riaz a pinch and a pat on the cheek.

“There it is!” she said. “There is Riaz’s cute little Pet.” The children were as confused as before.

“God gave each of you a body and a mind to help your soul grow and learn. It is your responsibility to take care of your mind and body, better than you would a most loved pet. When you were tiny, that responsibility was mine and Daddy’s. Baha’u’llah said that ‘Thus, ere thou dist issue from thy mother’s womb, I destined for thee two founts of gleaming milk, eyes to watch over thee, and hearts to love thee.’ But the older you get the more that responsibility is yours.”

The children had completely forgotten the video game and the movie as they looked at each other in confusion.

“I am a pet!” said little Anisa.

“Let me get this straight,” said Asma. “My body is the ‘pet’ for my soul?”

“Yes.” said mother. “Yours soul is what has come from the Spiritual Realms,

from God. It is the real 'you'. Shahla, your curly hair isn't you is it? If I cut off a curl, is that curl Shahla? If I cut off your fingernail, is that fingernail Shahla? How about if your finger fell off, or (God forbid) your arm, would any of those things be you? No, not one part of your body is 'you', it is only what your soul wears. Just like you can wear a pink dress one day, but that dress isn't you any more than a blue would be."

The children still looked pretty confused. It was Mona who first seemed to get a glimmering of what Mother was saying.

"So, God sent our soul here and gave us a body to wear?"

Mother smiled and nodded.

Then Mona continued. "And with our body we can learn stuff and that helps our soul to grow."

"Oh, I see," said Asma, "With our eyes we see stuff and with our ears we hear stuff, and with our brain we learn stuff, all for our soul."

"Yes," said Mother. "And all the while we are learning about love, patience, kindness, justice, mercy, and all the other attributes our soul needs for the next world. At first we learn these from our mother and father, then from our teachers and the other people around us. But that is not all we need our body for, we need our body to serve others. Growing and Serving is how we get closer to God."

Shahla tilted her head and said, "Then it is our soul that feels happy or sad?"



"Yes!" said Mother, "It is our soul that feels joy and sorrow, love, and thankfulness, and pity. It is also our soul that communicates with God when we pray. Our eyes read the words, our mouth says the words, but it is our soul that makes those words a prayer, that talks to God." Baha'u'llah also says that the soul is the first thing to recognize its Creator, God.

"But! Getting back to my very first point....You have to take care of your body and your mind, because without them you cannot grow or serve. So, Anisa, what do you do to take care of a very special pet?"

Anisa thought a moment...she always wanted a kitten. "If I had a kitten...I would feed it and give it milk, and make sure it had a warm place to sleep, and I would play with it."

"Very good Anisa!" praised Mother. "Just like how you would take care a

kitten, you need to feed your body good nutritious food, give it plenty of exercise, or play, keep it clean, give it plenty of rest, and teach it what it needs to know.” Mother thought a moment and continued. “There are also things that can hurt our body or mind. Can you think of any?”

“Riaz shouted, “Eating too much and getting fat!” With that everyone laughed.

“Or not eating enough to be healthy, or only eating sweets and getting cavities” said Shahla.

Mona solemnly said, “Drinking alcohol damages our brain, that is why Baha’u’llah said we can’t do it.”

Mother nodded and said, “That is right, but hopefully none of you have to worry about that for a long, long time.”

“For now, think about if it is healthy for your ‘precious pet’ to be sitting still, in front of the T.V., on a bright sunny day, when it could be outside playing ball, skating, jumping rope or playing tag, working up a good appetite for tonight’s nutritious dinner!”

With that she tickled and chased each one of them outside. They all ran outside laughing as she turned off the T.V



Martyrdom of The Bab

It was a hot summer morning in Okinawa. Mother was busy in the kitchen making an apple pie while the children were in their rooms putting on their best clothes, with Mona supervising them.



“No Riaz! You can’t wear your gym clothes, Mother said you have to put on your Feast clothes!” Everyone in the house could hear her yelling. Mother put the pie in the oven and went to see what the problem was. Mona was trying to brush the tangles out of Shahla’s thick curly hair. Mother appeared at the door just as Riaz stuck out his tongue at Mona and she threw the brush at him.



The hot weather had not improved anyone’s temper. Little Anisa ran to Mother and pulling on her dress pointed to the other children and said, “What are they all doing here? Is it Sunday again?”

“No, silly, said Asma, it’s a Baha’i Holy Day. Mom doesn’t make us go to school on Baha’i Holy Days.”

“Yeah! No school! I love it!” shouted Riaz. “If only I could relax in my comfortable clothes and not have to get all dressed up!”

“Well Mr. Smarty Pants Asma, do you know what Holy Day it is?” asked Shahla. She could say this with confidence, because she had already asked Mother this question and knew the answer.

“Of course I do!” defended Asma. “The Birthday of the Bab”.

“WRONG!” shouted Shahla with Mona joining in. “The Martyrdom of the Bab!” they explained.

“I knew that,” mumbled Asma...Girls could be so aggravating.

Little Anisa had a very confused look on her face. “Marty’s dumb?” who is Marty?” she asked. Everyone laughed.

“OK “ Mother said, “Stop laughing you guys. Let’s hear you explain what the Martyrdom of the Bab means.” Suddenly there was silence in the room.

“All right, let’s start simply, Anisa, do you know who the Bab is?”

“Yes”, she said smiling, “He is a teacher from God, that told people that Baha’u’llah was coming.”

“Wow, good job Anisa!” Mother was not the only one in the room with a surprised look on her face. Anisa looked around the room and frowned.

“I may be little, but I’m not stupid!” With that everyone laughed again.

“Yes, well,” began Mother “Firstly, Martyrdom is when a person is killed

for what they believe in. A martyr is what that person is called. In 1850 in Tabriz, Persia, the gentle Bab, that was loved all over Persia for His beautiful teachings and kindness to everyone, was about to be killed by a firing squad.” With that beginning all the children sat down on the floor to listen to the story.

“As He was led through the city on the way to His last prison cell, a youth threw himself at His feet and begged that he be allowed to follow Him wherever He might go. The Bab said to him ‘Arise, and rest assured that you will be with Me. Tomorrow you shall witness what God has decreed.’ The name of that youth was.....?”

“Anis!” said Mona.

“Me?”shouted Anisa, “He had my name?”

“Anis is a boy’s name, Anisa is a girl’s name.” said Asma wisely. He had discovered this last year.

“Yes,” continued Mother, “Anis could not bear to be separated from Him. Anis begged to be allowed to be with Him always, even to death. So Anis followed the Bab to His prison cell.

The next morning the Bab was dictating to His secretary when the guards came to take Him to be killed. The Bab said that He wasn’t finished talking yet, and that until He was, no earthly power could silence Him. The guards ignored Him and took Him out anyway. When the Bab and Anis were led to the courtyard, 10,000 people had gathered on the rooftops to watch. They tied The Bab, hanging from a wall, and had Anis hanging in front of him with his head resting on The Bab’s chest. 750 soldiers with rifles lined up in three rows ready to shoot.”

Mother paused and looked around the room. Asma and Riaz were leaning forward listening carefully. Mona and Shahla looked sad and Anisa had her head buried in Mother’s lap for fear of what was to happen next.

“Now the captain of that regiment, his name was Sam Khan, had talked with The Bab and told Him that he was a Christian and really didn’t want to kill The Bab because he knew that He had done nothing wrong. The Bab had told Sam Khan not to worry, that if he were sincere, God would relieve him of this problem. So, Sam Khan gave the word, Ready, and the soldiers cocked their rifles, aim, and FIRE, FIRE, FIRE! The 3 rows of soldiers took turns firing their rifles at The Bab and Anis.”

“OH NO, OH, NO!” shouted Anisa, as she buried her head further into

Mother's lap.

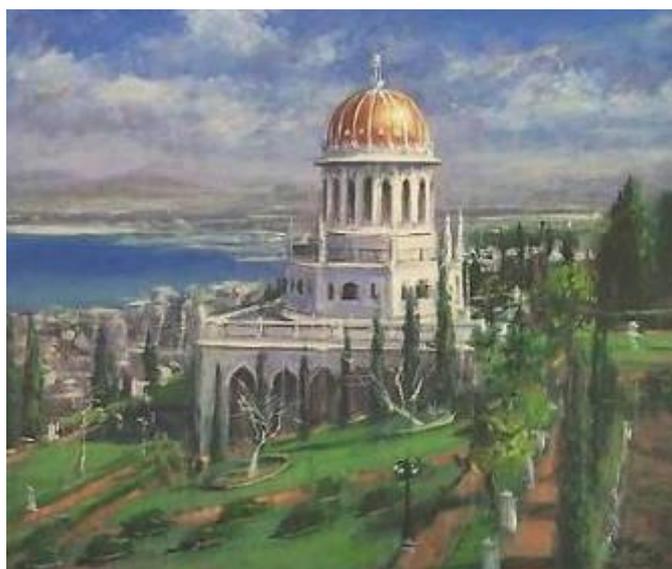
“Being old fashion rifles they gave off so much smoke that at first, not one of the 10,000 people watching could see anything for awhile. When the smoke cleared, people couldn't believe their eyes. Anis was standing there all alone unhurt and The Bab was nowhere to be seen. They finally found Him in His cell finishing His conversation with His secretary. ‘Now you may proceed to fulfill your intention.’ The Bab told them. Sam Khan was so stunned, he marched his regiment out and refused to have anything more to do with it. They had to bring another regiment in and again The Bab and Anis were tied suspended from the wall, and again the 750 rifles fired at them. This time the bullets found their mark. The bodies of the Bab and Anis were completely shattered and meshed together. But their faces were almost untouched.

Today on the slopes of Mount Carmel in Israel, people from all around the world go to the beautiful Shrine of the Bab and say prayers. And in that Shrine, Anis is there too, never separated from his Lord.”

Mother had tears in her eyes as she finished, and as she looked around the room, she saw that her dear children did too.

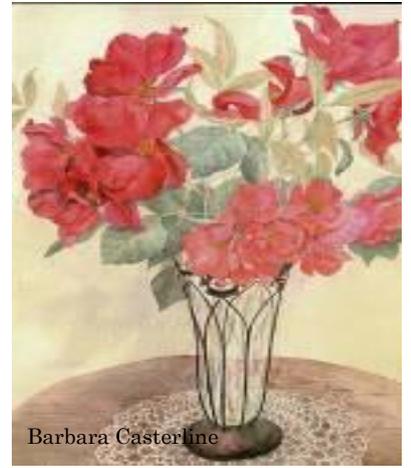
“Had you believed in Me, O wayward generation, everyone of you would have followed the example of this youth, who stood in rank above most of you, and willingly would have sacrificed himself in My path. The day will come when you will have recognized Me; that day I shall have ceased to be with you.”

The Bab



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Quiz



1. What is our Precious Pet?

2. When do we get our Precious Pet?

3. How should we take of our Precious Pet?

4. What are some things that can harm our Precious Pet?

5. Who was the Bab?

6. What does Martyrdom mean?

7. Where and when was the Bab killed?

8. Who asked to be killed with the Bab?

9. What happened the first time the 750 rifles fired at the Bab?

10. Where is the Bab and Anis buried?

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



The answers are on the Parents' Page.

Making Paper



Materials

- Milk cartons, cleaned and flattened
- Blender/Food Processor (For making paper pulp)
- Sponge
- Window Screening (mold)
- Tiny towel or Flannel Fabric to soak up water
- Wood Frame (old picture frame can be used)
- Staples or Tacks (For tacking screen on frame)
- Plastic Basin/Tub (Large enough to totally immerse frame)

Instructions:

1. Rip the milk carton into small bits, and place into the blender. (about half full). Fill the blender with warm water. Blend until pulp looks smooth.
2. Make frame by stretching screen tightly across picture frame and staple firmly.
3. Fill the basin about half way with water. Add the pulp. (the more pulp you add the thicker the finished paper will be) Stir the mixture.
4. Place the mold into the pulp and then level it out while it is submerged. Gently wiggle it side-to-side until the pulp on top of the screen looks even.
5. Place flowers, ferns, etc. onto the pulp.
6. Slowly lift the mold up until it is above the level of the water. Wait until most of the water has drained.

7. When the mold stops dripping, gently place the fabric onto the paper inside of the mold. Put the mold on the sponge, and press the fabric, squeezing out as much water as possible. Keep squeezing the excess water out of the sponge and continue pressing.
8. Now comes the tricky part. Holding the mold upside down pick the edge of the paper from the mold and let it peel off onto the fabric square. The wet sheet of paper should remain on the fabric. If it sticks to the mold, you may have pulled too fast or not pressed out enough water.
9. Lay the paper attached to the fabric to dry. When it is dry it will easily come off the fabric.
10. Make another paper with the same mold.
11. Find a nice Quotation to either write or paste onto the papers and give them as a gifts.



Jr. Youth Spring School, Fukuoka





Cleaning the Beach Service Project

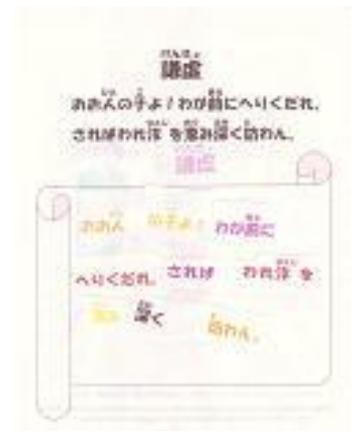
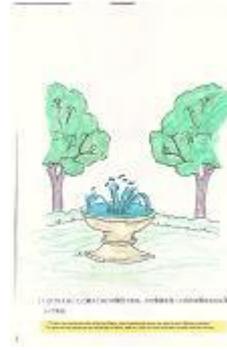
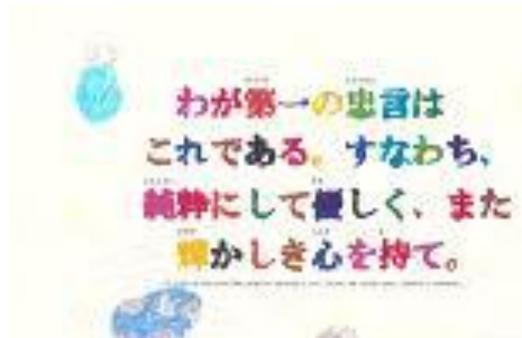


Friends in Chicago





Takamatsu Kids and Art



Art from Children in Konan City in Shiga

Parents Page



Please discuss with the children their own responsibility in learning and growing. At school it is their responsibility to learn as much as they can so that they can be of service to the world. At home it is their responsibility to keep their bodies healthy by eating well, keeping themselves clean, getting enough exercise and sleep, so that they can serve mankind better and longer. If they have a pet at home or school you can talk with the children about how to take care of the pet and take care of their own body and mind in the same way. Also you can discuss with the children about our true selves, our soul, and how our body and mind help our soul to grow.

Below are a few quotations about the soul, from the Bahai writings, for us to meditate on.

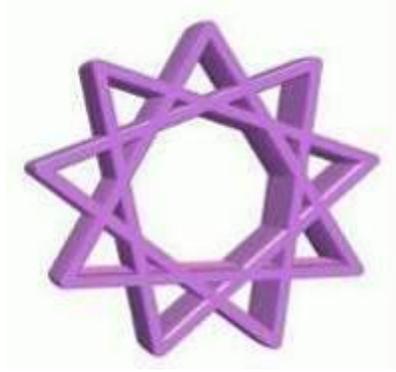
“Man -- the true man -- is soul, not body; though physically man belongs to the animal kingdom, yet his soul lifts him above the rest of creation. Behold how the light of the sun illuminates the world of matter: even so doth the Divine Light shed its rays in the kingdom of the soul. The soul it is which makes the human creature a celestial entity!”

“...but the sun does not reside in the mirror. It does not enter nor come out of the mirror, nevertheless one sees it in the mirror, so the soul reflects itself in the body.”

“With the soul it is different. The soul is not a combination of elements, it is not composed of many atoms, it is of one indivisible substance and therefore eternal. It is entirely out of the order of the physical creation; it is immortal!”

“The art of music is divine and effective. It is the food of the soul and spirit”

Answers to the Quiz 1) Our Body and Mind. 2) In our mother's womb, as soon as we are created. 3) Keep it clean, well fed, exercise, taught it should know. 4) Eating or drinking things that are not healthy, not enough exercise not learning, being dirty. 5) Teacher from God that prepared the way for Baha'u'llah. 6) means to die for something you believe in 7) 1850, Tabriz, Persia. 8) Anis. 9) Anis was left standing unharmed, the Bab had disappeared. 10) Haifa Israel



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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