



Book Cover for Notes on Abdul-Baha

Hiru no Hoshi

No. 245

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*“Think ye at
all times
of rendering
some service
to
every member
of the
human race.”*

Abdul-Baha

Stories of Abdul-Baha

The children had just finished their prayers. They had had a wonderful day at the Home for the Elderly. Everyone seemed to have really loved their puppet show, and that made the children very happy.

Anisa said, "Ok, Mommy, tell us some stories about Abdul-Baha now."

"Yeah!" the other children joined in.

Mother thought for a moment and then began. "Did you know that Abdul-Baha's name was not Abdul-Baha when He was born?" The children all looked surprised to hear that. "What was it?" asked Asma. "Baha'u'llah gave Him the name of Abbas because Abdu'l-Baha's grandfather had that name. The title of Abdu'l-Baha, He chose for Himself. It means the Servant of Baha (Glory). Baha'u'llah gave Him many beautiful names and titles but He preferred to be called Abdu'l-Baha. Abdul-Baha said *'My name is Abdul-Baha, my identity is Abdul-Baha, my qualification is Abdul-Baha my reality is Abdul-Baha, my praise is Abdul-Baha. Thralldom to the Blessed Perfection is my glorious refulgent diadem; and servitude to all the human race is my perpetual religion.'*

That means that all Abdul Baha wanted to do is serve all the people in the world, any way He could, and He did just that.

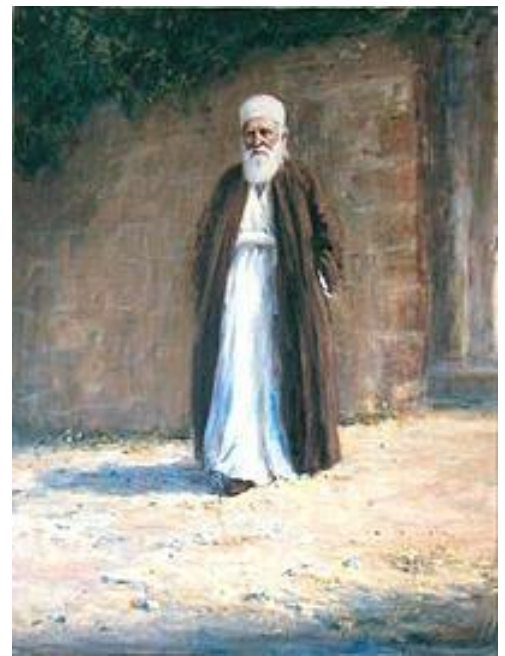
"What is 'tradom'?" asked Shahla. She was always curious about new words.

"Thralldom, it means to be a servant. And the Blessed Perfection is another name for Baha'u'llah or (The Glory of God)." answered Mother.

"And a diadem?" shouted Anisa. And everyone laughed.

"A diadem is a crown," answered Mona wisely. "I remember that from one of the prayers."

"The last part I especially want you to remember *'and servitude to all the human race is my perpetual religion'*." Mother continued, "Abdul-Baha would wake up at dawn every morning and after prayers, would go out to help the poor. He would give them food or advice, and sometimes warm clothes to wear in the winter. If they were sick He would pay for a doctor to see them and He would visit them Himself. All day long He worked. Late at night He would return home sometimes without having had anything to eat since breakfast. He would spend most of the night praying and writing





letters to the Friends all over the world, bringing them encouragement and happiness.”

“I remember when He gave away His coats!” suggested Riaz, who, also loved to be generous... when he wasn’t being mischievous, that is.

“Very good, Riaz, can you tell that story?” asked Mother.

“His wife made Him an expensive, nice coat, and when Abdul-Baha saw it, He told her to sell it and make five cheap coats with the money she got for that one expensive coat, so that He could keep one cheap coat and give the other four away. And that is just what happened,” Riaz finished, smiling.



“How about when Abdul-Baha gave away the family’s dinner?” suggested Asma.

“Ok, tell it,” encouraged Mother.

“Hmmm,” started Asma. “Abdul-Baha’s family was just sitting down to dinner, when someone came in and told them about a family in the neighborhood that was in trouble, and had no money, and no food. So, Abdul-Baha said to wrap up their whole dinner and take it to them. And when someone in the family started to complain....Abdul-Baha said that they would have breakfast the next morning and three meals a day every day, but that family would only have this one, maybe. And that His family could be patient for just this one meal.”

Shahla jumped in, “Tell them about the Black Rose, that is my favorite!”

“You can do it, go ahead,” said Mother.

“It’s long, I don’t know if I remember all of it,” confessed Shahla.

“I’ll help you,” put in Mona. And with that the two girls started.

“Abdul-Baha was in New York and they were walking down the street going to a meeting or something,” began Mona. “And some naughty boys started following them and making fun of the way Abdul-Baha and some of the other Persian men were dressed,” added Shahla excitedly.

“And then,” continued Mona, “the Baha’i lady whose house Abdul-Baha was staying at stopped and talked to the boys and told them that Abdul-Baha was a kind and good man who loved everyone and she invited them to come over and meet Abdul-Baha that next Sunday.”

“Yeah, I bet Abdul-Baha told her to do that!” put in Riaz.

“So,” continued Shahla, “they all arrived on Sunday dressed in their very best clothes and they were all really shy, (because they were all really poor boys and this was a super rich lady’s house). The last boy who stayed at the doorway was a little African American boy. He was really embarrassed and not sure he was welcome. Abdul-Baha was so happy to see all the little boys



“Say, where were the girls, Mom?” suggested Asma. Justice was always very important to Asma.

“I don’t know, Asma, Good question!” answered Mother truthfully.

“Hey! Can I go on with the story now?” shouted Shahla. “Abdul-Baha was so happy to see all the little boys, but especially that last little African American boy. ‘Ahhh, a Black Rose!’ He exclaimed.”

Shahla was a very good actress!

“Abdul-Baha took out a big box of expensive chocolates and gave every boy his choice. But for the little African American boy, Abdul-Baha took out the biggest blackest chocolate and put it next to the cheek of the little boy, to show all his friends how delicious and nice looking he was. Then all the white boys liked him a lot better after that!” finished Shahla.

“I wish I had a chocolate from Abdul-Baha,” sighed Anisa. All of the children nodded in agreement. Even Mother wiped a tear from her eye thinking how sweet that would be.

“Ok, one more story and then it is time to go to bed,” said Mother.

“Remember the story of the proud helper?”

“Yeah!” cheered the older children. Anisa just looked on in anticipation.

“An American lady named Lua Getsinger had been visiting Abdul-Baha in Akka, the prison city where Abdul-Baha and His family lived. She thought she wanted to be just like Abdul Baha. So she asked Abdul-Baha if she could help Him. He told her that a friend of His was very sick and could she please go and visit him because Abdul-Baha was very busy and couldn’t get away that day and see His friend. Lua was so happy to be of service to Abdul-Baha that she immediately set out to see Abdul-Baha’s friend. As she followed the directions to the address Abdul-Baha had given her, the area of the city got dirtier and poorer. And she became afraid something bad might happen to her. When she got to the man’s house it was so poor and dirty, and when she went inside it was even worse, and the man looked so sick, like he was about to die, she was afraid she would get a terrible illness if she stayed. So, she ran out of the house, straight back to Abdul-Baha and told Abdul-Baha that He must have sent her to the wrong place, that that place was horrible!

“Yeah, she was only thinking about herself,” put in Shahla.

Mother smiled and continued, “Abdul-Baha looked sternly and sadly at her and said that He had been to help the man many times and He would go again many more times and could she not help him just that once? If he



was dirty, clean him, if he was hungry feed him, she should help him any way that was necessary. To be a servant to that man would be the same as being a servant to God. So, Lua went back and did all those things for the poor man. She cleaned him and fed him and cleaned his house and did everything that was necessary for him. Just like Abdul-Baha would do.

Lua learned that to be a servant means to do it for the person that needs help, not for any benefit to yourself. Not even to get praise for what you have done. And it also means that service is doing what is needed, not what you want to do because it is fun or easy. That is what Lua learned and that is what I want all of you to learn, too.” Mother finished the story and looked around at her smiling children.

“Let’s put on a play about Lua’s service!” suggested Mona. All the children thought that was a great idea.

“That is a good idea,” said Mother. “And you can put it on for us next week at Feast,” she said. “But remember you can’t have anyone be Abdul-Baha, that wouldn’t be right.”

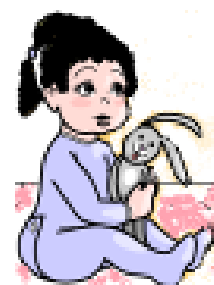
Riaz jumped up and said, “We can have a curtain and one of us can run back and forth from behind it, like a servant and tell Lua, ‘Abdul Baha said to please go visit His friend.’ And Lua can come back and tell that servant ‘Please tell Abdul-Baha it was terrible!’ and the servant can rush behind the curtain and then come out and tell her what an idiot she was.....and stuff like that!”

With that everyone laughed. They all had trouble getting to sleep that night because they were all so very excited about making the play.

The next week, they put on the play of “The Proud Helper” after Feast.

Shahla was Lua, Riaz was the poor sick man, Asma was the servant that ran back and forth behind the curtain sending messages to and from Abdul-Baha, Mona was the narrator, and Anisa was a little girl in Abdul-Baha’s house that watched what Lua was doing.

They all had lots of fun and hopefully, they all learned a little about what it means to be a servant to all mankind.



(The beautiful paintings of Abdul-Baha were done by Steve Pascal www.stephenpaschal.com)

*The drawing of Lua is from **The Proud Helper** Illustrated by Rex John Irvine

Quiz

1. Whom was Mother telling stories about?

2. Why did Abdul-Baha choose that name for Himself?

3. What did Abdul-Baha do when His wife gave Him an expensive coat?

4. What did Abdul-Baha do with those five cheap coats?

5. What did Abdul-Baha do with the family meal when He found out that a neighbor family was hungry?

6. What did Abul-Baha do with the box of chocolates when the little boys came over to visit Him?

7. What did Abdul-Baha call the little African American boy when He was so happy to see him.

8. What did Lua Gettsinger do the first time she went to visit Abdul-Baha's friend who was sick?

9. What did she do the second time?

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

The answers are on the Parents' Page.



Candle Art 9 Pointed Star

Materials

- *The dot to dot page
- *A white stick candle
- *Bright colored crayons (yellow, orange, red)
- *Black or dark colored water paint
- *Glitter glue
- *A piece of construction paper to mount the picture on

Method

- *Instead of a pencil, use a white candle to follow the dots in this issue's Dot to Dot page. (after the **r** go back up to the **a**)
- *Color the whole star with bright crayons and the white candle.
- *Paint over the whole picture with black or dark blue colored water paint.
- *Put glitter glue on the star to make it sparkle.
- *After the paint is dry, glue it onto a piece of construction paper larger than the picture, so that it looks like the frame.

You now have a 9 pointed shining star in the night sky!

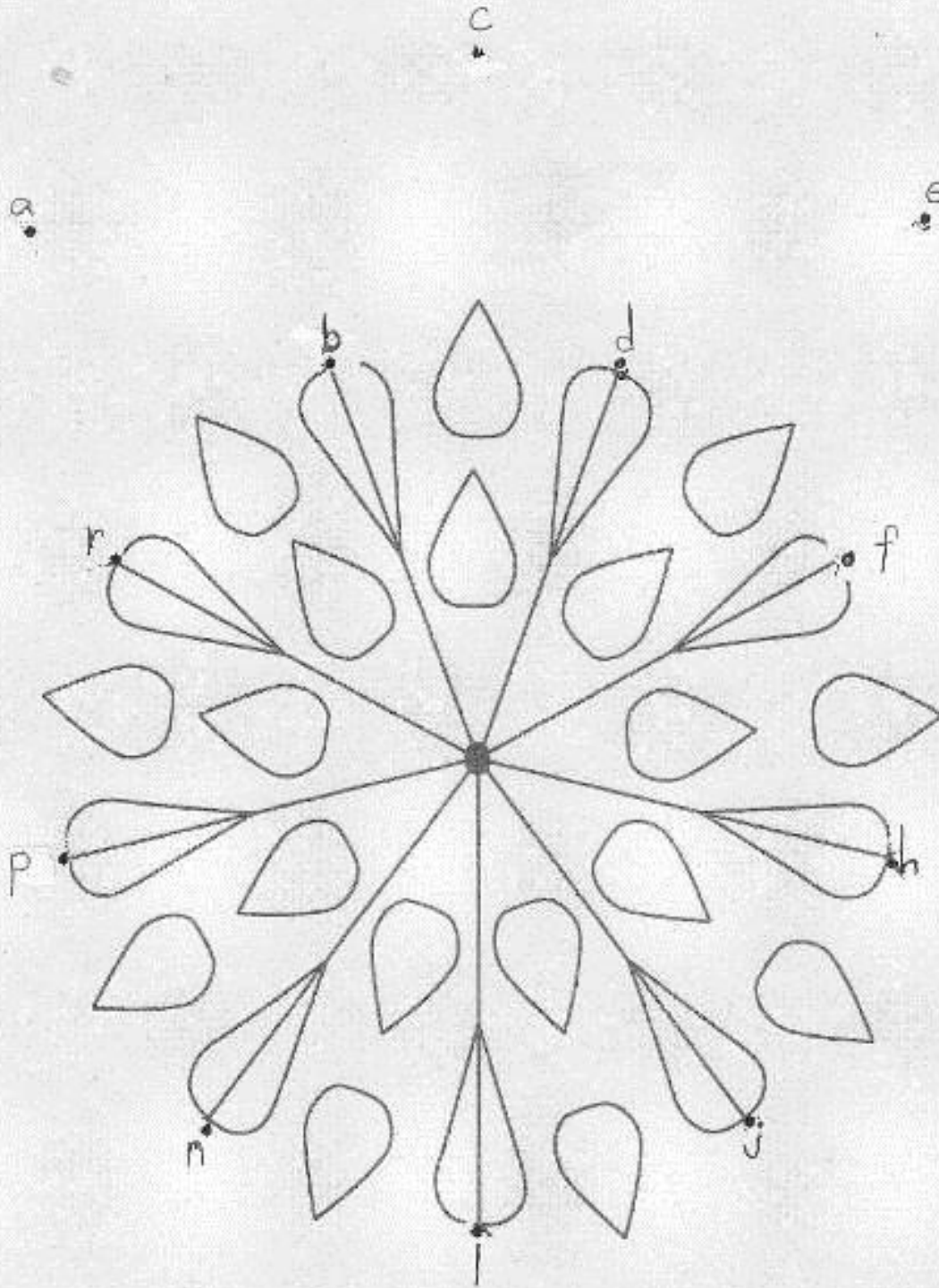


From a to b....

From b to c....

Follow the dots... and what do you see?

(after r, go back up to a)



Children's Classes

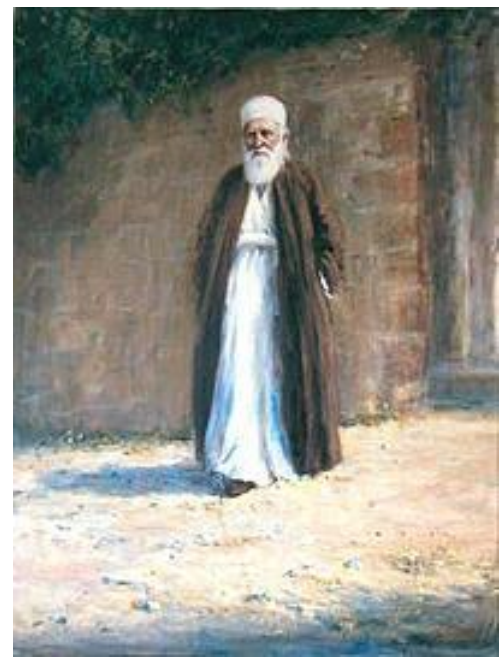


Parents Page

This issue is a continuation of last issues theme of Service, showing Abdul-Baha as our example. It is very difficult to look at the Manifestations of God, Christ, Buddha, Baha'u'llah and try to be like Them, so that is why God in this great dispensation gave us Abdul-Baha as the Perfect Exemplar. In His own words, *“Look at me, follow me, be as I am; take no thought for yourselves or your lives, whether ye eat or*

whether ye sleep, whether ye are comfortable, whether ye are well or ill, whether ye are with friends or foes, whether ye receive praise or blame; for all these things ye must care not at all. Look at me and be as I am; ye must die to yourselves and to the world, so ye shall be born again and enter the kingdom of heaven. Behold the candle, how it gives light. It weeps its life away drop by drop in order to give forth its flame of light.”

With all the dubious role models in the world today, let us show our children someone worthy of following. We can do this with stories of the life of Abul-Baha found in books like **The Chosen Highway, Portals to Freedom, Memories of 9 Years in Akka, Vignettes of Abdu-Baha** and many other books.



Answers to the Quiz 1) Abdul-Baha. 2) Because it means servant, and He wanted to be a servant to God and mankind. 3) He told her to sell it and buy five cheap coats with that money. 4) He kept one and gave four of them away to people that needed them. 5) He had the whole dinner wrapped up and sent to the family. 6) He gave each boy a chocolate, and the last piece He put next to the African American boys cheek to show his friends how sweet and nice he was. 7) A Black Rose. 8) She ran away in fright. 9) She cleaned the house and the man and fed and took care of him.



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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