

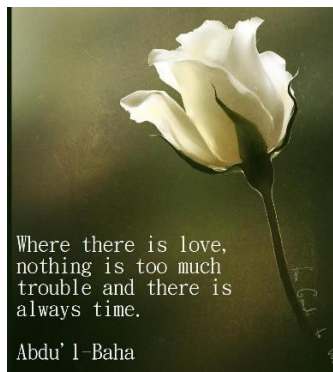


Port Alberní Nuggets

Volume 1, Issue No. 10

Sharaf (Honour), 177, B.E

Baha'i Quote of the Month



Baha'i Stories:

The Master went to the public park, which He greatly enjoyed. Walking by a lake, He saw the remains of the few marble pillars left by the 1906 earthquake. Looking at them, He said, "The world and its condition will change to such a degree and the Bahá'í Cause will prevail to such an extent that nothing but a remnant like these pillars will remain of the previous order."

-Earl Redman, 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst, p. 215

News and events:

Bahá'í World News Service

Papua New Guinea: House of Worship takes shape



A virtual rendering of the design for the national Bahá'í House of Worship of Papua New Guinea

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea — Coming into view from all directions as one approaches the Waigani area of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, is the rising structure of the Bahá'í House of Worship currently under construction. Once completed, the House of Worship will act as a focal point for devotion and service to society, open to people from all backgrounds.

“In Papua New Guinea, where there are more than 800 languages and as many tribes, the House of Worship represents unity for all the people of the country,” says Confucius Ikoirere, Secretary of the country’s Bahá'í National Spiritual Assembly. “The design of the temple, which is based on traditional weaving patterns, is itself symbolic of unity. This art form is found everywhere in the country, from baskets created for special occasions or use in everyday life to matts woven for family and friends. Weaving calls to mind how we come together among our diverse backgrounds and customs.”

Since the foundations of the House of Worship were completed last December, work has progressed on an intricate steel structure for the central edifice that traces the unique weaving pattern of the exterior. An innovative design for the steel dome, devised by Werkstudio, an engineering firm based in Germany and Poland, provides the required strength with an economical use of material.

The structural system interfaces with the nine entrance canopies that provide lateral strength to the temple. This system, parts of which are nearing completion, will eventually support a steel dome mesh that will at its apex reach a height of approximately 16 meters above floor level.

Designs are being finalized for wood panels that will adorn the entrances of the temple, using local timber. Planning is also under way for gardens that will surround the central edifice.

Mr. Ikoirere says, “The House of Worship will provide an environment where people will find solace and peace, to give time to their Creator and find inspiration to serve humanity.”

Sharing:

Lesley’s sharing:

At our last Feast, we discussed the most recent message from the Universal House of Justice. I have been contemplating one part of a sentence from the message since I first read it. I suppose sometimes we read something said a certain way, and it resounds within us in a way that the same concept has not impacted us before. The Universal House of Justice wrote:

“. . . the merit of your contribution to social well-being lies, first, in your resolute commitment to discover that precious point of unity where contrasting perspectives overlap and around which contending peoples can coalesce.”

For me, this struck home when I thought about my conversations with others, especially during this difficult time when there are conflicting theories about how COVID-19 started, what we should do in society to curb the pandemic, not to mention the ideas about what is really going on. I had a conversation with one of

my neighbours and her reactions to the pandemic were in direct opposition to mine. Fortunately, I allowed her to express her opinions without really getting into my own ideas. Through prayer, I realized that I had no idea why she was so vehement in her viewpoint and her need to forcefully express it. It is so easy to make assumptions from someone's words, words that disguise the feelings underneath, which could have been fear for herself, an elderly woman, or her family; or anger, that in the final years of her life she needs to isolate from others, after having experienced other hardships in her life, such as the death of loved ones and illness. Speculating about her reasons is really not fruitful. How important it is, I was reminded to really listen, to capture the feelings, to let her empty her cup, remembering the description, Howard Colby Ives gave of how Abdu'l-Baha listened:

"I have heard certain people described as 'good listeners,' but never had I imagined such a 'listener' as 'Abdu'l-Bahá. It was more than a sympathetic absorption of what the ear received. It was as though the two individualities became one; as if He so closely identified Himself with the one speaking that a merging of spirits occurred, which made a verbal response almost unnecessary, superfluous."

Another example for me is frequent conversations with a friend who has experienced a great deal of loss in her life and expresses her anger and bitterness freely. My inclination is to listen first but to feel frustrated that nothing is changing and she is not moving on, and, unable to bear the torrent of venom spewing from her, encourage her to feel grateful for small things or to offer solutions. If we consider what Abdu'l-Baha would have done, I can see His majestic, smiling face loving that person into peace and tranquillity by His mere presence. And yes, love really is the answer. And finding a point of unity. Imagine if, always, with every encounter, no matter what walk of life a person comes from, we could demonstrate our love for them, truly listen to them and find that precious point of unity. What a blessing to live in this age and to strive as Baha'is to be those people who can help to forge the precious unity of mankind!

Daryl's sharing:

More than not these days, we are presented with opportunities that prompt a defensive and more likely knee jerk reaction over one that has the potential to bring us harmony through greater control.

In the hope of promoting harmony over magnifying the negative influences of the issue at hand, our personal mission as always is to be in control emotionally while remaining responsive and not reactive when facing any issue.

We can spend an endless amount of energy reacting or justifying the reactions of any number of issues; however, our willing participation in any negative scenario represents support for it, allowing for more of the same rather than investing our energies in the over-all solution.

We all desire to attain an understanding of how to live in peace and content rather than being faced with more of the same upset over how our lives or the state of the world is.

Even with everyday thoughts and personal situations of a seemingly insignificant nature, we require our detached conscious response over an uncontrolled emotional one.

Seeing the forest for the trees means we are in emotional control, and when facing daily issues, this should remain our stance. For our peace of mind, not becoming the victim of random events and wishing to avoid disharmony in our lives requires we stop and consider our objective of peace over-all.

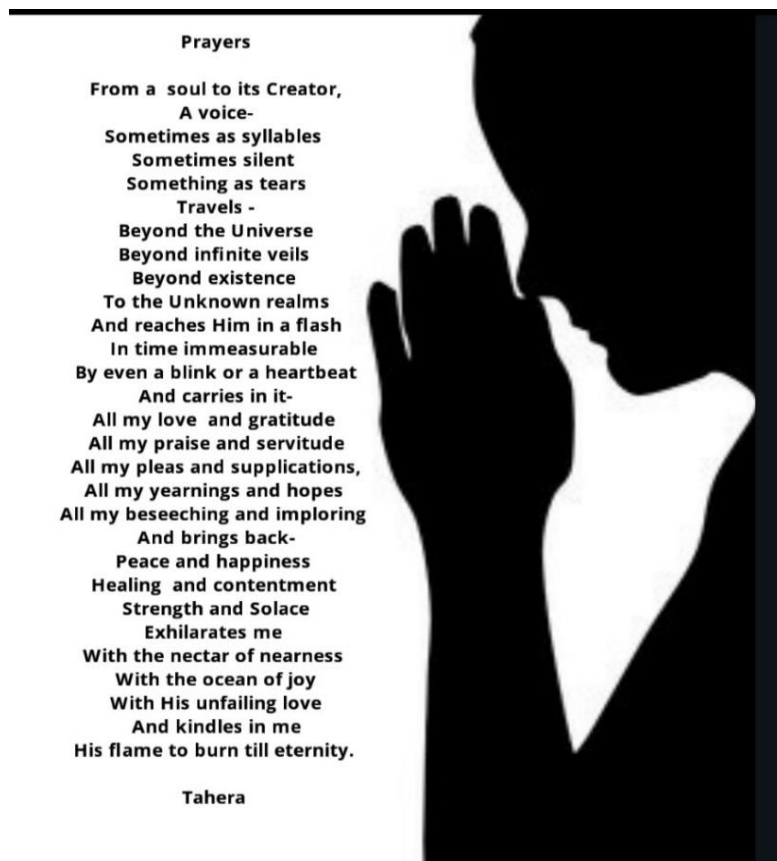
Especially for personal growth and mental health, though it is nearly impossible to avoid reacting to issues, we owe it to ourselves as healers and physicians of oneness consciousness and peace to provide an avenue for a solution that evolves out of productive conscious control.

Taking a stance in defending positivity when facing any difficult issues represents the decisive point between engaging in destructive energies or not between which we always have a choice. Our daily spiritual progression should embody an effort to master the understanding that we really do have at any time the ability to make a decisive choice for the better.

Knowing that as we decisively choose to maintain our focus on an end result of inner or outer peace and calm will significantly help us respond consistently and beneficially to any number of issues that we might face.

Though, ensuring we do respond overreacting is an ongoing and deepening process to master the detached positive approach to living within purposeful, conscious restraint represents an essential aspect of the foundation of our fulfillment, of content and joy.

A new poem by young Tahera sent from India:



From the editor's desk:

Baha'i Teachings on Economics, a Deepening (Part Two)

The Universal House of Justice has instructed us to deepen our knowledge of economics and practice the Teachings in our economic activities.

"... accrue knowledge and experience, gradually but consistently, about the higher purpose of economic activity. Against the background of the age-long work of erecting a divine civilization, may this exploration become a more pronounced feature of community life, institutional thought, and individual action in the years ahead."

-The Universal House of Justice, 1 March 2017

Abdu'l-Bahá explains one of the problems that has had significant economic consequences on the world's nations:

"Peace is the pretext, and night and day they are all straining every nerve to pile up more weapons of war, and to pay for this their wretched people must sacrifice most of whatever they are able to earn by their sweat and toil. How many thousands have given up their work in useful industries and are labouring day and night to produce new and deadlier weapons which would spill out the blood of the race more copiously than before.

"Each day they invent a new bomb or explosive and then the governments must abandon their obsolete arms and begin producing the new, since the old weapons cannot hold their own against the new." - 'Abdu'l-Bahá: *The Secret of Divine Civilization*, p. 61.

Questions:

1. *Why do people have to sacrifice most of whatever they are able to earn?*
2. *Why have thousands given up their work in useful industries?*
3. *What happens to old weapons once new ones are devised?*

Now let us examine 'Abdu'l-Bahá's vision of a world without war:

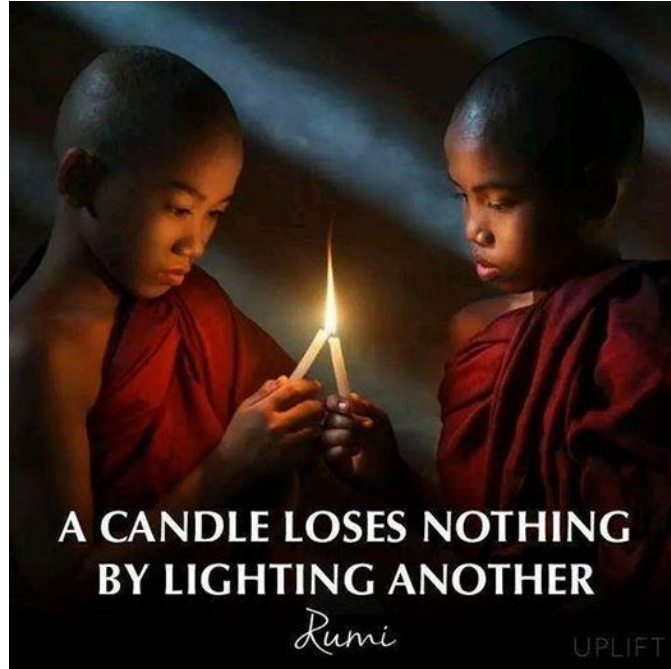
"Observe that if such a happy situation be forthcoming, no government would need continually to pile up the weapons of war, nor feel itself obliged to produce ever new military weapons with which to conquer the human race. A small force for the purposes of internal security, the correction of criminal and disorderly elements and the prevention of local disturbances, would be required — no more. In this way the entire population would, first of all, be relieved of the crushing burden of expenditure currently imposed for military purposes, and secondly, great numbers of people would cease to devote their time to the continual devising of new weapons of destruction..." - 'Abdu'l-Bahá, *The Secret of Divine Civilization*, p. 65–66.

Questions:

1. *What is the "happy situation" that 'Abdu'l-Bahá refers to?*
2. *What is the alternative to the piling up of weapons of war and the continuing production of new military weapons?*

3. *What changes would the entire population experience?*
4. *What would be the size of a military force of the future, and what would be its function?*
5. *How would people spend their time if they were not producing weapons of destruction?*
6. *Suggest ways of using the money saved by reducing military expenditures.*

Famous quotes:



Upcoming Events:

Coming feast: Sharaf (Honour), 30 December

Next feast: Sultán (Sovereignty), 18 January 2021

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