

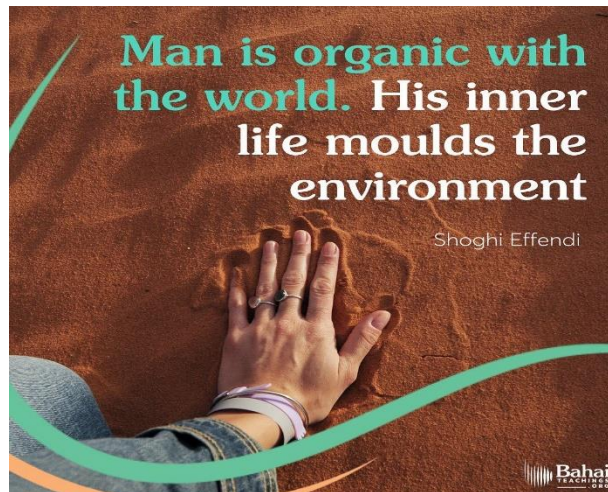


Port Alberni Nuggets

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Baha'i Quote of the Month



Baha'i Stories:

Juliet Thompson was also there when 'Abdu'l-Bahá was introduced to Admiral Peary, who had just succeeded in publicly disgracing Captain Cook and proving himself, and not Captain Cook, the discoverer of the North Pole. Juliet said that: . . . At that moment . . . he looked like a blown-up balloon. I was standing beside the Master when Khan brought the Admiral over and introduced him. The Master spoke charmingly to him and congratulated him on his discovery. Then, with the utmost sweetness, added these surprising words: "For a very long time the world had been much concerned about the North Pole, where it was and what was to be found there. Now he, Admiral Peary, had discovered it and nothing was to be found there: and so, in forever relieving the public mind, he had rendered a great service." I shall never forget Peary's nonplussed face. The balloon collapsed! 'Abdu'l-Bahá also suggested that the Admiral should explore the invisibilities of the Kingdom. -Earl Redman, 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Their Midst, p. 97-98

News and events:

Bahá'í World News Service

Building a common vision in Vanuatu for moral education

January 7, 2021

PORT VILA, Vanuatu — *As Vanuatu celebrates its 40 years of independence and looks to the future, a national conversation about the direction of the education of children and youth is gaining momentum.*

To contribute to these discussions, the Bahá'ís of the country recently brought together representatives of the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Education, village chiefs, and different social actors to reflect together on the role of moral education in society.

Gregoire Nimbtik, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, expressed the sentiments of other participants, saying: "We wish to have a society where happiness is sustainable, where there is no disunity, where everyone lives in a peaceful environment, and where everyone cares for each other. The question is how can we build the capacity of our young ones and enable them to build this kind of society? Education has a vital role in this regard."

This question has been at the heart of Bahá'í educational efforts in Vanuatu for decades, including literacy programs, formal schools, and initiatives at the grassroots that develop the capacity of children and youth to serve society. Henry Tamashiro, a member of the Bahá'í community of Port Villa and one of the organizers of the event, says, "In discussions with village chiefs and community members about the challenges facing our country, we all arrive at one question: How can the moral character of the individual be elevated?"

"Gatherings like this allow diverse segments of society to talk about a missing part of the educational system: what the traditional leaders call the education of the heart, educators call moral education, and faith communities refer to as spiritual education."

Chief Ken Hivo of Freshwota, one of the largest localities in the Port Vila area, said at the meeting, "Moral education is of the utmost importance. Our present education system is often seen as no more than an instrument to prepare our children for employment and is focused on the education of the mind. But pure hearts are needed for an effectively functioning community. Spiritual principles need to guide a person. Societies that are governed solely by materialistic principles will only deteriorate further and further. But many of our social issues will disappear if spiritual principles also govern our communities."

Andrea Hinge of the University of the South Pacific echoed this thought, stating: "This means having teachers who are not focused only on helping a child pass an exam, but also on teaching students about how to live with others in society."

Representatives of the Bahá'í community at the gathering explained that when children learn about the concept of selfless service early on, they are able to make meaningful contributions to

social progress from a young age. Among the many examples provided were efforts of youth engaged in Bahá'í educational initiatives who are managing conservation areas in the forests around their villages in order to preserve native species.

Looking to future gatherings, Mr. Tamashiro says that "This dialogue is opening a new door. Participants came to this meeting somewhat downhearted about the condition of society, but when they saw that they are not alone in their desire to address the challenges facing young people and that there is an effective path forward, everyone became very hopeful."

Sharing:

Laurand' sharing:

The article I sent you from "Vignettes from the Life of Abdu'l-Baha" really touched my heart. Abdu'l-Baha has been held in the highest esteem in my mind as He has in many others.



There is an enormous amount of beauty and knowledge in every word and move Abul'l-Baha wrote, said and made while he was on this earth. I am very thankful for all the guidance he has given me, like informing me to see the reflection of God in every person I meet.

The article contains many great attributes to a man who spent His life helping others at a great expense to Himself. The deeper I read this article the more I could understand the words of the song "Be as I am", a beautiful tribute to Abdu'l-Baha. No words of mine could convey adequately the esteem gained by Abdu'l-Baha through His self sacrifice.

One writer reported that 'Abdu'l-Bahá once compared the Bahá'í Faith to a garden. In essence He said, 'At the gate of the garden some stand and look within, but do not care to enter. Others step inside, behold its beauty, but do not penetrate far. Still others encircle this garden, inhaling the fragrance of the flowers and, having enjoyed its full beauty, pass out again by the same gate. But there are always some who enter and, becoming intoxicated with the splendor of what they behold, remain for life to tend the garden. 'Abdu'l-Bahá opened the gate to the garden of God and led the way for all who wished to follow. Surely no mortal can ever judge the total effect of

'Abdu'l-Bahá's exemplary life on a multitude of others – Bahá'ís, as well as on friend and foe alike.

Once Bahá'u'lláh turned to 'Alí Muhammad Varqá, saying, 'See 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the Master, what a wonderful effect His deeds and words have in the world! See how kindly and patiently He endures every difficulty.'

Many were those who paid tribute to 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Juliet Thompson, His devoted disciple, wrote, 'As He walked among the people, an Immortal in a less than human world, with His ineffable beauty, His scintillating power, His strange, unearthly majesty, eyes full of wonder followed Him.

'The poet, Kahlil Gibran, said: "For the first time I saw form noble enough to be the receptacle for [the] Holy Spirit!"

Daryl's sharing:

Spiritual Science

Our compliance with the advice stating that science and religion must go hand in hand is, of course, the best way for us to approach and incorporate our spirituality. When life appears to frustrate our efforts, perhaps we simply need to step away from a duality perspective and return to the present, keeping with the intention of trust.

The following is a quote from the writings of Abdu'l'-Baha,

“Scientific knowledge is the highest attainment upon the human plane, for science is the discoverer of realities. It is of two kinds: material and spiritual. Material science is the investigation of natural phenomena; divine science is the discovery and realization of spiritual verities. The world of humanity must acquire both. A bird has two wings; it cannot fly with one. Material and spiritual science are the two wings of human uplift and attainment. Both are necessary—one the natural, the other supernatural; one material, the other divine.”

– Abdul'-Baha

Metaphysics meaning the science of life, describes how creative forces work to affect the physical world. In my understanding, there is an inseparable energetic relationship that we have with the laws that govern the creative process, a process influenced by our emotions, so being the better we understand how those scientific and spiritual laws work, the better results we will have in dealing with our personal challenges as well teaching the cause.

Most of the oppression we sense and the emotional burden we feel are derived directly from a duality perspective. As we react in the belief that life has once again got us down, recall that we perceive two ways. We perceive the dissonant illusion of duality and, when informed and inclined from the empowering sanctuary of oneness. Knowing we have a choice makes it much easier to turn to an oneness perspective secured through the present in a state of trust. Trusting

delivers us consciously and energetically to the present and opens the door allowing our right harmonious intention to heal without contradicting energies.

“Say; God sufficeth all things above all things and nothing in the heavens or the earth but God sufficeth verily He is in Himself the knower, the sustainer, the all sufficing.” -The Bab

From the editor's desk:

Baha'i Teachings on Economics, a Deepening

The Universal House of Justice has instructed us to deepen our knowledge on 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

Another problem, that of the survival of the fittest, which originates in human nature, has been man's legacy from the days when he lived a primitive life in the jungles to the present time. Today it is called competition.

“In the world of nature we behold the living organisms in a ceaseless struggle for existence. Everywhere we are confronted by evidences of the physical survival of the fittest. This is the very source of error and misapprehension in the opinions and theories of men who fail to realize that the world of nature is inherently defective in cause and outcome and that the”

-‘Abdu’l-Bahá: The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 400. (Talk dated 7 November 1912 in Washington, D.C.)

Questions:

- 1. How is the law of the survival of the fittest the origin of all difficulties?*
- 2. Is survival of the fittest the cause of economic problems:*

The following are ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s directives to overcome this problem:

“This [survival of the fittest] is the very source of error and misapprehension in the opinions and theories of men who fail to realize that the world of nature is inherently defective in cause and outcom...and that the defects therein must be removed by education.”

-‘Abdu’l-Bahá: The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 400. (Talk dated 7 November 1912 in Washington, D.C.)

“In nature there is the law of the survival of the fittest. Even if man be not educated, then according to the natural institutes this natural law will demand of man supremacy. The purpose and object of schools, colleges and universities is to educate man and thereby rescue and redeem him from the exigencies and defects of nature and to awaken within him the

