

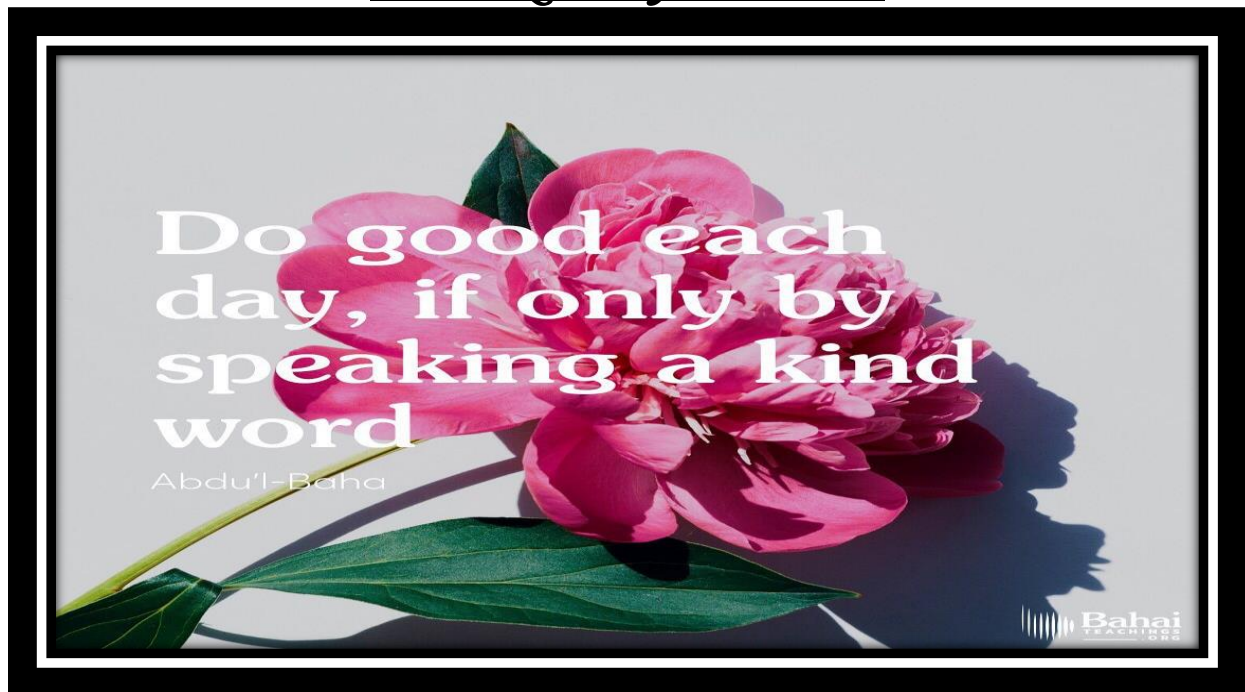


## *Port Albern Nuggets*

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*(Jamal, Beauty), 177, B.E*

### *Baha'i Quote of the Month*



### *Baha'i Stories:*

#### *Ridvan - twelfth day*

*Many of the Blessed Perfection's followers decided to abandon Baghdad also and accompany him in his wanderings. When the caravan started, our company numbered about seventy-five persons. All the young men, and others who could ride, were mounted on horses. The women and the Blessed Perfection were furnished wagons. We were accompanied by a military escort.*

-Myron Henry Phelps and Bahiyyih Khánum, Life and Teachings of Abbas Effendi, p. 30

## News and events:

*Bahá'í World News Service*

### **Youth initiative in Cambodia reduces soil erosion during floods**



“If these youth hadn’t started their project, we might have lost the whole road. If we help them continue their efforts, we could see a big difference for future floods,” said the leader of Okcheay village, Say Chhert.

*OKCHEAY, Cambodia — In 2019, a group of young adolescents in the Cambodian village of Okcheay set out to plant trees along a patch of road to improve air quality and provide shelter from the heat. At the time, they could not have anticipated that this section of the road would be protected from severe erosion during the floods which came a year later.*

*Although modest in its impact, the project and how it can continue to be supported was recently discussed among local leaders of neighboring villages.*

*“If these youth hadn’t started their project, we might have lost the whole road. If we help them continue their efforts, we could see a big difference for future floods,” said the leader of Okcheay village, Chhert Say, at the meeting.*

*The youth were inspired to undertake the initiative through their participation in Bahá'í educational programs that develop capacities for service to society. Phoeurb, an older youth who works with the group, describes an important aspect of these educational programs, saying: "These youth have been developing an essential capacity—to describe the social reality of their village and identify needs that they could address."*

*One of the young members of the group explains the thinking behind the project. "It gets hot during the summer, and there was no shade for people who walk on the road, so we decided to plant trees."*

*"Trees also produce flowers and fruit," adds another youth, "which makes our village more beautiful."*

*Local leaders and community members, including other youth in the village, enthusiastically supported the project from the outset, giving advice on selecting the most suitable species and helping to plant the trees.*

*Mr. Say shares his observations about the group, saying: "This shows the importance of the Bahá'í activities, because the young people of our village are using their time after they come back from school to discuss meaningful topics and to be of service to the village."*

*At their most recent meeting this week the youth reflected on how they can continue their efforts. "Our hearts are full of happiness," said one young person, "when we see all the people in the village happy. We see how we can do our part to make a new civilization."*

## **Youth Corner:**

**Baha'i community of Port Alberni requests all the friends on the Island to encourage the young people to send their stories, artworks, and news to Port Alberni Nuggets. We do not have children or youth in our community, but we would love to be of service to them and provide a platform for encouraging their efforts.**

## **Sharing:**

### **Lesley's sharing:**

#### **Community clean-up**

*On Saturday, April 17, six of our Baha'i community members tried something that we had not done before. Relying on His blessing, we participated in the Community Clean-Up, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Port Alberni. Although we were unable to work as a group because of COVID, there was still a unity of the spirit in our endeavour; and we gave it our best on the hottest day of the year. From one community member expressing an interest in helping the community in this way, others jumped on board without question. Perhaps this service will lead to other possibilities in the future. This experience taught us that for serving the community, it is not the experience or knowledge that makes the efforts effective, it is the sincerity of motives and commitment to serve that counts more than anything else.*

**Badi's sharing:**

*Building Home for the elders in India*



*Nazz Rest Home*

*That there must be full integration of the aging in the human community*



*View of the lake nearby*

*I am delighted to announce that the most important step for starting the work to fulfill my dream of creating a rest home for the elderly, named after my mother Nazz Bibi "Nazz Rest Home," by acquiring 3 acres of land, has been achieved and soon the surveyor is going to mark the boundaries so that we start the work of putting up the fence and digging the well for water and then planting a great many fruits, vegetables, herbs and other decorative plants for the consumption of the residents and*

*beautification of the rest home and the residents of the village. The location of the village of Chabrana is about 80 KM from the capital city of Jaipur in the state of Rajasthan, India; the connecting highway has beautiful scenery to offer, and the village, which is small and friendly, has even a small lake with fish in it which is a miracle since Rajasthan is a desert state. Hopefully, soon the construction will start, and it will welcome seniors from all religions, races and nations.*

*The co-operation of the villagers has been assured with our offer of employment and the assurance of my good friend Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), who has informed the villagers that this facility is a Baha'i inspired facility for the service of their community. The construction will be supervised by the Auxiliary Board Member (ABM) of Rajasthan, a professional land developer and my spiritual partner.*

*The design of the garden and its beautification, which will be the key feature, has been boosted by a Baha'i horticulturist, and designs have already been made; he is a landscaping professional who will help me to implement the advice of my mother **“to make the gardens so beautiful that people come to visit to enjoy the beauty of nature.”***

*I wish to make the facility a model for sustainability by growing the fruits and vegetables for its use and installing solar panels to generate power and recycling and composting—other methods to make it have the most negligible impact on the environment. The old friend of my pioneering years there, the Haghghat family, who are the central focus of all activities, will supervise the project with their daughter. The latter, who is a physiotherapist, will be the director of the operation of the future facility and deal with all aspects of its development.*

*The local Spiritual Assembly of Jaipur, the Baha'i Council of Rajasthan and all the friends, have taken great interest in this endeavour and have offered their partnership and support and are excited to participate and have assured their wholehearted support for this spiritual undertaking. Many professionals have already provided their future services.*

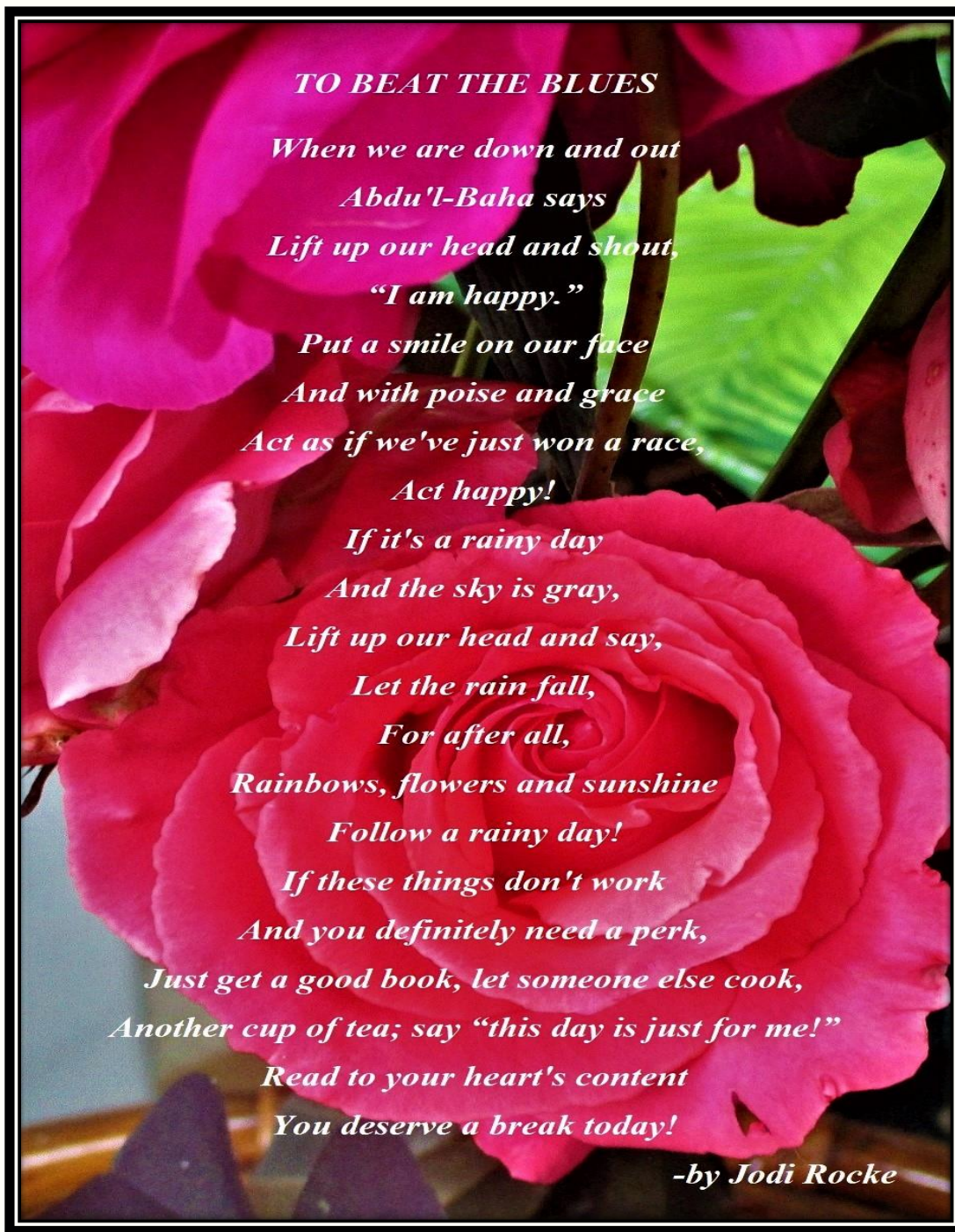
*Your prayers and good wishes are highly needed and appreciated.*

*Your questions, suggestions and offers of help are highly appreciated since this will be a collaborative and consultative process and the more input, the better would be the outcome for a facility that will be operated on spiritual principles of the Faith for the welfare and care of our seniors who have worked all their lives to make this world a better place. It will be our challenge and privilege to provide befitting service for the senior citizens in their golden years based on these instructions:*

***“That there must be full integration of the aging in the human community, since the community should be an extended family in which everyone, of any age, is an essential part, and not only allowed, but encouraged, to make the fullest possible contribution to the wellbeing of the whole; and that in considering the needs of the aging in the process of development we must take into account the wholeness of the human being, the moral and spiritual dimension, besides his emotional,***

*intellectual, and physical nature when discussing the special contributions of older persons to development and their sharing in the resulting benefits.”* -Bahá'í International Community

### Jodi's poem



#### *TO BEAT THE BLUES*

*When we are down and out  
Abdu'l-Baha says  
Lift up our head and shout,  
“I am happy.”*

*Put a smile on our face  
And with poise and grace  
Act as if we've just won a race,  
Act happy!*

*If it's a rainy day  
And the sky is gray,  
Lift up our head and say,  
Let the rain fall,  
For after all,  
Rainbows, flowers and sunshine  
Follow a rainy day!*

*If these things don't work  
And you definitely need a perk,  
Just get a good book, let someone else cook,  
Another cup of tea; say “this day is just for me!”  
Read to your heart's content  
You deserve a break today!*

*-by Jodi Rocke*

## *From the editor's desk:*

### *We Live in an Age of Miracles*

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*We live in an age of miracles—and we don't even know it.*

*I've often wished I lived in the times of some of my heroes who participated in great historical events and to fight beside them in their battles. How I admired and idealized them. How I would have wanted to be with them and help them any way I could in their battles with ignorance and injustice, and by doing that, take part in an important event in human history.*

*We all have some heroes from the past that we admire. For me, as a Baha'i, I've wanted to live in the earliest days of my Faith's dramatic history, with those great men and women who risked everything, including their lives, for their deepest beliefs. They were tormented and put in the worst prisons to*

*persuade them to recant their Faith, but that made them more determined and braver. Most of them suffered and died for their beliefs. Those stories of bravery inspire me.*

*Recently, though, I've become more focused on what is happening now. The news concentrates on the negative events, but I try to see the positive side of our present day, and as I continue doing that, I realize the wonders of our modern-day world are totally overlooked because of the negative slant prevalent in much of the news.*

*I found it fascinating as I searched more and observed with an investigating eye. I am from the generation that did not grow up with the many amazing gadgets that are so commonplace today, so I see them not with a jaded eye but with a sense of wonderment. I don't take them for granted, so you can imagine why I call the present time an age of miracles.*

*These days—promised by religions and people of vision in the past—are truly miraculous. When Abdu'l-Baha, the son and successor of Baha'u'llah, the prophet and founder of the Baha'i Faith, came to North America to speak about and spread the Baha'i ideals more than a century ago, he said:*

***“From every standpoint the world of humanity is undergoing a reformation ... scientific ideas and theories are developing and advancing to meet a new range of phenomena; invention and discovery are penetrating hitherto unknown fields, revealing new wonders and hidden secrets of the material universe; industries have vastly wider scope and production; everywhere the world of mankind is in the throes of evolutionary activity indicating the passing of the old conditions and advent of the new age of reformation.”*** – Abdu'l-Baha, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 439.

*After thinking about it, I realized how my heroes would have loved to experience the present, not just because of new inventions and discoveries, but rather to see how much closer we are to the promised day when humanity becomes united and establishes a new world commonwealth.*

*It may sound too optimistic to write about these things at a time when it looks as if the world is falling apart when numerous wars and conflicts rage—but Baha'is believe these events, both positive and negative, are all part of a bigger plan:*

***“The world's equilibrium hath been upset through the vibrating influence of this greatest, this new World Order. Mankind's ordered life hath been revolutionized through the agency of this unique, this wondrous System—the like of which mortal eyes have never witnessed.”*** – Baha'u'llah, *The Most Holy Book*, p. 85.

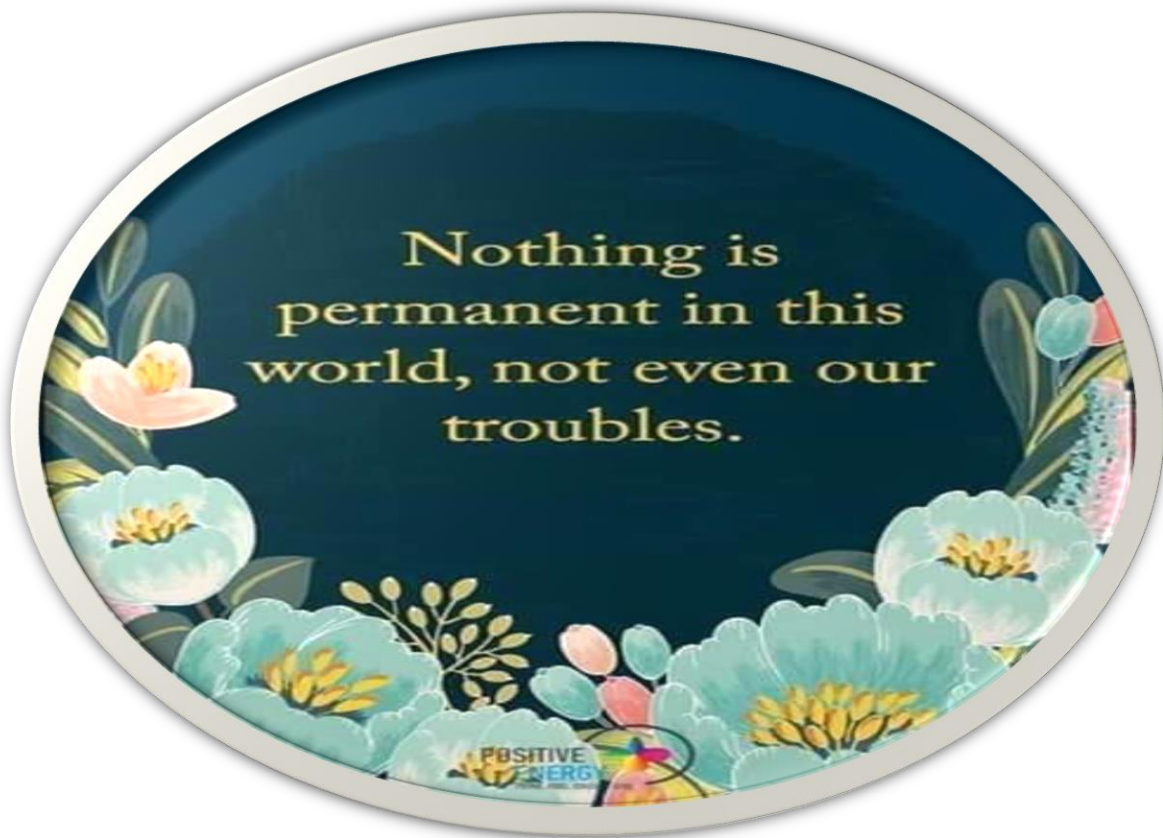
*Look at it this way: to build your dream house, you have to dismantle the old, dilapidated one and start building a new, well-designed and beautiful structure. In the same way, the Baha'i teachings say that the old order—with its failing theories, systems, and structures in the economic, political, education, health and other realms—can not satisfy the needs of the present generation of humanity. All of these upheavals are the signs of its malfunctioning and the sounds of its destruction. This doesn't signal the end of the world; instead, it signifies the coming of a beautiful new world. The Baha'i teachings say we are on the edge of these profound changes. Most people now agree that things are not working today and don't require convincing that we need a better system.*

*Who from the past generations would not want to witness the advent of a new age? We are witnessing the old structure crumbling down, and every day a new tool is invented. We have the blueprint of the new structure in hand and are preparing our equipment as we eagerly wait to start construction. Thanks to Baha'u'llah's new revelation, we now have the design for that future structure—but first, humanity as*



*a whole needs to join hands to participate in this venture because this new world belongs to every single person on Earth.*

**Famous quotes:**



**Upcoming Events:**

**Coming feast: Jamal, Beauty, April 27, 2021**

**Ninth Day of Ridvan, April 28**

**Twelfth Day of Ridvan, May 5**

**Next feast: Azamat, Grandeur, May 16, 2021**

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