



## *Port Alberni Nuggets*

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



NOBODY SHOULD DIE OF HUNGER;  
EVERYBODY SHOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT  
CLOTHING; ONE MAN SHOULD NOT LIVE  
IN EXCESS WHILE ANOTHER HAS NO  
POSSIBLE MEANS OF EXISTENCE.

*Abdu'l-Bahá*

Baha'i Writings

### *Baha'i Stories:*

#### **Bahá'u'lláh - Ascension**

*My mother, my Aunt Khánum, my three sisters, and I lived in the bigger house at `Akká with our beloved Father; Bahá'u'lláh lived at Bahji. At this time, the people of the place greatly respected and honoured*

*Him and the Master, and we were as happy as was possible in the unhealthy atmosphere of `Akká. On this day of sadness, a servant rode in from Bahji with a tablet for the Master from Bahá'u'lláh: "I am not well, come to Me and bring Khánúm." The servant, having brought horses for them, my Father and my aunt set off immediately for Bahji; we children stayed at home with my mother, full of anxiety. Each day the news came that our adored Bahá'u'lláh's fever had not abated. He had a kind of malaria. After five days, we all went to Bahji; we were very distressed that the illness had become serious. On the fifteenth day of the illness, the Persian pilgrims and Bahá'í friends from `Akká were admitted to His presence.*

*Mirza `Andalib from Shiraz, Mirza Bassar, the blind poet, were there. They, weeping, circled round and round His bed, praying and beseeching Bahá'u'lláh to permit them to be a sacrifice for the saving of His precious life for the world, if only for a short time longer. Bahá'u'lláh spoke loving words of peace and calm to them, exhorting them to be faithful to the Cause of God, to be loyal, true, and steadfast, letting their characters speak to the world. "I am very pleased with you all. My hope is that your deeds will be examples worthy of the Bahá'í Faith - that you may ever be true followers of the Light of God's Law."*

*Two lambs were brought into His room; then the Master went into `Akká to arrange various matters, to see the friends, giving the good news that His Father was slightly better. He then superintended the distribution of the two sacrificial lambs amongst the poor prisoners of `Akká. In the evening, He came back to Bahji.*

*Bahá'u'lláh asked for us, the ladies and children, to go to Him. He told us that He had left in His will directions for our future guidance; that the Greatest Branch, `Abbas Effendi, would arrange everything for the family, the friends, and the Cause. "The loving devotion of `Andalib has touched me very much, also the love of them all. I hope they will everyone be true and faithful servants."*

*On the nineteenth day of His illness, He left us at dawn. Immediately a horseman galloped into `Akká to carry the news to the Mufti. Forthwith from the seven minarets of the mosque, the event was proclaimed:*

*"God is Great. He Giveth Life! He Taketh it Again! He Dieth Not, but Liveth for Evermore!"*

*This proclamation from the minarets is a custom of Islam at the passing of a very greatly honoured, learned, and holy man.*

*The tidings spread throughout the land and were proclaimed from the minarets of every mosque. People from all the villages of the country-side crowded to Bahji to show their respect, and to join in the mourning. Many Shaykhs brought lambs, rice, sugar and sale. This is an Arab custom: the idea is, that as these gifts are distributed to the poor, they will, in return, pray for the soul of the departed.*

*Muslim friends, the Mufti, mullas, governors and officials, Christian priests, Latin and Greek, Druses from Ab'u-Sinan, and surrounding villages, and many other friends gathered together in great numbers in honour of the Beloved One.*

*Marthiyih, songs in His praise, were chanted by poets. Laments and prayers were chanted by Shaykhs. Funeral orations were spoken, describing His wonderful life of self-sacrifice.*

*Many of the guests encamped under the trees round the Palace of Bahji, where more than five hundred were entertained for nine days. This hospitality entailed much trouble on the Master, Who made all the arrangements and superintended every detail; money also was given by Him on each of the nine days to the poor.*

*At dawn on these days the "Call to Prayer" and some of the "Munajats" (prayers chanted) of Bahá'u'lláh were chanted from the balcony of the palace. Very touching and impressive it was to hear the beautiful voice of our Arabian Bahá'í friend, chanting the call to prayer. At its sound, the Master arose, and we all followed Him to the tomb-shrine, where He chanted the funeral prayer and the Tablet of Visitation. -Lady Blomfield, The Chosen Highway*

## **News and events:**

*Bahá'í World News Service*

### **Bahai.org: International website sees major redesign on 25th year since launch**



*The extensive revamp provides an enhanced visual experience and additional features that aim to make the site's some 140 articles more easily accessible*

*BAHÁ'Í WORLD CENTRE — The newly redesigned website of the worldwide Bahá'í community at [www.bahai.org](http://www.bahai.org) has launched, representing the latest in a series of developments since the site was first created in 1996.*

*Updates to the site include two new sections—"Featured Articles" and "Featured Videos"—that bring together a curated selection of content drawn from the Bahai.org family of websites and new videos on the Bahá'í community's involvement in the life of society, its efforts to promote the social and material well-being of people of all walks of life, and the integration of service and worship in Bahá'í community life.*

*The new version of the site opens the way for further additions planned for the coming months and years, which will explore the development of the global Bahá'í community and the experience of those*

throughout the world who, inspired by the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, are striving to contribute to the betterment of society.

## Youth Corner:

The 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:

*Anne's sharing:*

### **At the Right Time, 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Malady Disappeared**

*'Glorified art Thou, O my God! I implore Thee by the Dawning-Place of Thy signs and by the Revealer of Thy clear tokens to grant that I may, under all conditions, hold fast the cord of Thy loving providence and cling tenaciously to the hem of Thy generosity.'*<sup>255</sup> Bahá'u'lláh

I was a child in Tehran when at the age of seven I contracted tuberculosis. There was no hope of recovery. The wisdom of this sickness became clear later. If I had not been ill, I would have been obliged to go to Mázindarán but because of this sickness I stayed in Tehran. This was when the Blessed Beauty was in prison in Tehran. Therefore, I was afforded the honour of being in His company during His journey to Iraq. When the right time arrived, I suddenly became well, after the doctors had given up all hope of recovery.<sup>256</sup>

*Abdu'l-Bahá said, 'There is a profound wisdom in whatever transpires.'*

*Lesley's sharing:*

### **Kindness Towards the Poor**

*"If ye meet the abased or the down-trodden, turn not away disdainfully from them, for the King of Glory ever watcheth over them and surroundeth them with such tenderness as none can fathom*

***except them that have suffered their wishes and desires to be merged in the Will of your Lord, the Gracious, the All-Wise. O ye rich ones of the earth! Flee not from the face of the poor that lieth in the dust, nay rather befriend him... ” – Baha’u’llah***

***"You must assist the poor as much as possible, even by sacrifice of yourself. No deed of man is greater before God than helping the poor. . ." — Abdu’l-Baha***

*Example of Abdu'l-Baha:*

*Friday mornings at seven there is another picture. Near the tent in the garden one may see an assemblage of the abject poor—the lame, the halt and the blind—seldom less than a hundred. As ‘Abdu’l-Bahá passes among them He will be seen to give to each a small coin, and to add a word of sympathy or cheer; often an inquiry about those at home; frequently He sends a share to an absent one. It is a sorry procession as they file slowly away, but they all look forward to this weekly visit, and indeed it is said that this is the chief means of sustenance for some of them. Almost any morning, early, He may be seen making the round of the city, calling upon the feeble and the sick; many dingy abodes are brightened by His presence.*

*Mary Lucas, a pilgrim to Akka in 1905, found that the Master usually ate but one simple meal a day. In eight days He was present at most meals, often coming just to add joy to the occasion... If He knew of someone who had no meal during a day, the family supper was gladly packed up and sent to the needy.*

***Daryl’s sharing:***

#### **Consider this?**

*We survive in a world built out of the quality of thought frequencies we create, thoughts between which we wonder, never knowing we are the very creators of our lives. Not knowing that our thought is the creator of much of what we experience demands we learn this science of mind and spirit. Once we comprehend this truth through deep investigation, we become free from certain limitations.*

*At times I find myself suffering from a poor perspective, one of waiting for something other than what is happening right now to be content, preventing me from really enjoying life. As with most people, I would imagine we believe at times this moment appears to lack some particular thing and that if that thing was present or if things were different, that would complete this moment such that we could raise the quality of the life we’re living and be happy.*

*Not being aware we wait in hope and expectation of certain events or material gain other than what is occurring right now only adds to our loss. If we thought about it deeply, we could see we are suffering from a perceptual misinterpretation within the limitations of time-bound awareness; as I see it, it is the quality of our perspective that creates our lives and not the material aspects.*

*For our happiness, I think we need to ask, is it really the presence of things that creates a life of joy and content, or is it our unified perspective and our conscious acceptance of this moment that suffices?*

*A unique quality of being human is that we are of two natures, the physical and the spiritual. To me, our spiritual nature allows us to utilize creative influences through purposefully guided intentions where we can bring about healing changes as we see are needed both in our own lives and others.*

*Too often, we misinterpret our true nature and believe we are only physical, causing us to react within the limitations of a time-bound and linear perspective, hindering our ability to create change and to truly enjoy life. To see the world from the present by returning to trust in God first and foremost before all we face is, of course, always our answer.*

### ***Badi's sharing:***

*I got my vaccine today. I am not crazy about vaccination in general and have never got a flu shot. But this time is not about me. It is about us as a collective. My conscience will kill me if I put others in danger by my selfishness and thinking about what I think. So my request to those like me who hesitate to get the vaccine is to please do it for the sake of others as a courtesy and show that you care for them by sacrificing your principles for the good of the community.*

### ***From the editor's desk:***

#### **Profit-Sharing: Does it Make Economic and Spiritual Sense?**

*Sharing the profit of any business with its employees pleases my economic side—and my mystic side. Profit-sharing makes perfect sense to me, so I am going to share my understanding from an economic point of view and a spiritual point of view, as an economist and as a Baha'i.*

*First of all, profit-sharing is such a generous action. It demonstrates sympathy, fairness, caring, and most importantly, unity and the recognition of equality since everyone in the business has a sense of ownership when management shares profits with the workers.*

*The Baha'i teachings strongly support sharing profits with employees. When owners and management take care of workers, it gives them an opportunity to be of service, and of course, it is an incentive and a privilege for workers to share in their organization's profits:*

***"... the owners of properties, mines and factories should share their incomes with their employees and give a fairly certain percentage of their products to their workmen in order that the employees may receive, beside their wages, some of the general income of the factory so that the employee may strive with his soul in the work."*** – Abdu'l-Baha, *Foundations of World Unity*, p. 43.

*One of the other benefits of profit-sharing is the reduction or elimination of strikes. Sharing the earnings creates a sense of togetherness and unity so that the workers will resist the temptation of strikes in favour of friendly negotiations. The employees will have less reason to strike, knowing that as the result of a strike, they will lose, too.*

*Now let's examine the concept of profit-sharing from an economic viewpoint. There have been many studies done in this field, and those studies have found benefits in terms of loyalty, productivity and taxation. Owen E. Richardson, in his essay "The Advantages of Profit-Sharing Plans," breaks these down:*

- *Loyalty: Loyalty significantly increases with remuneration. Employees that are offered an opportunity to participate in a profit-sharing plan invest more devotion to their position because*

of the direct reward associated with it. In addition, it shows the company is invested in the employees and creates a sense of parity rather than a composition of titles and ranks; employees envision themselves as transcending associate status and tend to see themselves as co-owners.

- **Productivity:** Employees invested in a profit-sharing plan begin to take ownership of the business as their work role becomes more defined by their contribution. “A plan that rewards employees with a share of the fruits of their labor draw a direct connection between work and reward,” writes Stu Watson for the Edward Lowe Foundation. Productivity maintains higher levels when employees are given the opportunity to share in the profit margin they are creating through their efforts rather than being merely compensated for time on the job.
- **Tax Benefits:** Employees can use a 401k as a tax deduction tool on their personal income taxes, reducing their adjusted gross income by sheltering profit-sharing contributions in a tax-deferred plan. Contributions to a 401k are only taxed at the time of withdrawal, allowing the employee’s contributions to grow tax-deferred until the funds are withdrawn or dispersed in payments.

For those who want to study more on this subject, the Harvard Business Review recently published an interesting article called “Huawei: A Case Study of When Profit Sharing Works.”

But I’m convinced that the emotional, psychological and spiritual benefits of profit-sharing—such as unity, harmony, a happy working environment, a sense of belonging, having a common interest and a reduction of stress levels—exceed even the economic benefits.

Baha’is believe we should recognize and study these factors and eventually give them paramount importance in any economic system.

This approach, with its combination of spirituality and economics, satisfies my belief that science and religion must coexist in harmony, just as the employer and employee relationship should exist in a state of harmony. If the unity of humanity is a goal for you, then profit sharing can help bring that goal much closer.

### Famous quotes:

Tenderness  
and kindness  
are not signs of  
weakness  
and despair,  
but manifestations  
of strength  
and  
resolution.

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- Khalil Gibran

*Upcoming Events:*

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

Declaration of the Bab, May 22

Ascension of Baha'u'llah, May 28

Next feast: **Nur, Light, June, 4**

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