

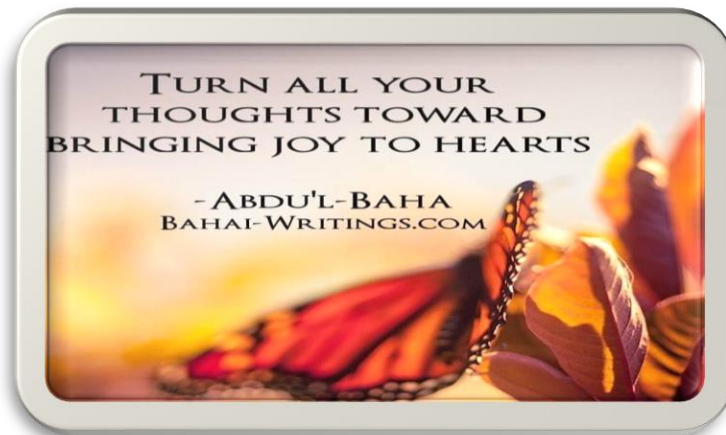


## *Port Albern Nuggets*

*Volume1, Issue No. 24*

*(Mashiyyat, Will), 177, B.Æ*

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



### *Baha'i Stories:*

*'Abdu'l-Bahá, in appearance, was a man of medium height though to all who met Him, He gave the impression of such majesty that He seemed much taller. His beard was flowing and white; His head covering, whether a turban or tarboosh, was white also. But, meeting Him, none of these details were even noticed. It was only the spirit one felt and the outpouring love. Love filled Him and flowed out from Him to bathe and encompass everyone in His presence. He was, as we all know, the Mystery of God. His station is unique. There has been no one like Him in any past religious era, nor will there ever be such in the future. Bahá'u'lláh had bestowed upon Him the assurance of God's guidance in His explanations of anything in the Teachings that needed clarifying for the believers and when He was but ten years old, His Father, Bahá'u'lláh, addressed Him and referred to Him as 'the Master.' He was the perfect Exemplar of the Bahá'i Teachings: He lived by prayer and wished only to be known as 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the servant of the servants. He made no mistakes. Yet, with all this, He needed, as we all need, the constant attitude of prayer to renew and revivify Him and urging us ever upward. His constant adjuration was, "Do as I do. Be as I am.*

Reginald Grant Barrow, *Mother's Stories: Stories of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Early Believers told by Muriel Ives Barrow Newhall to her son*, p. 36

## News and events:

### **Bonding East and West, Twin LSA's of Jaipur, India and Port Alberni**

We are incredibly excited to announce that the Port Alberni Baha'i community now has a twin city, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India. Both Assemblies are looking forward to taking some steps to get to know and learn from each other. The first joint meeting of the two assemblies happened on September 9<sup>th</sup>. It was a meeting with a great spirit and joy. Each LSA member expressed their gratefulness to Baha'u'llah's Faith that has connected the hearts of His of believers from the East to the West. Both Assemblies look forward to cooperating with each other in the path of service. Here are a few pictures of children's classes and the 8-day youth camp, which was successfully completed. During this camp, 15 youth studied Ruhi Book-1 (Divine Life), 11 studied Ruhi Book-3 (Organization of Children's Classes), and 7 studied Ruhi Book-5.



*Bahá'í World News Service*

## Malaysia: Promoting unity in a land of great diversity



*KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — In Malaysia, where cultural, religious, and linguistic diversity are cherished ideals, the national conversation about how to foster greater social cohesion has increasingly become focused on the responsibilities of social institutions and government, especially during the*

*pandemic. There has, however, been far less discussion on how all segments of society can contribute to building unity.*

*This observation by the Bahá'í Office of External Affairs of Malaysia is the motivation behind a discussion series titled “Protagonists of Unity” that is bringing together academics, civil society organizations, and representatives of the country’s faith communities to explore the deeper implications of unity and the principle of the oneness of humanity.*

*“We have to acknowledge that unity must become a pursuit for all and that everyone can contribute to the progress of our country,” said Vidyakaran Subramaniam of the Office of External Affairs.*

*He adds: “Individuals, communities, and social institutions each have a role to play, and building unity depends on how well these three protagonists of change work together toward this aim.”*

*At a recent gathering on the role of dialogue in building a more cohesive society, participants examined the Bahá'í principle of consultation. “Many conversations in the public sphere often take the form of a debate—different groups present their views, and these views are assumed to be in conflict with each other. This form of interaction does little to build consensus and promote unity,” said Dylane Ho, another member of the Office of External Affairs.*

*“In order to build common understanding,” she continued, “trust is needed. Trust is built when a safe discussion space is created, one that is imbued with a sense of respect for all and where people speak with courtesy and listen to others in a posture of humility with an open mind. When we approach conversations this way, people from diverse backgrounds with seemingly different objectives are able to find points of common agreement and transcend differences.”*

*Attendees at another gathering, which largely included founders and directors of different organizations, reflected on the role of civil society organizations in contributing to greater unity.*

*A common theme that emerged was the need for the conviction in the nobility of human beings. Norani Abu Bakar, founder of Blue Ribbon Global, stated: “We have to remember that each person has a great deal to offer. We have to trust that there is goodness in everyone. When we believe in this, we can overcome many fears and barriers to unity, especially the fear of others.”*

*Other discussions in the series have examined the need to reconceptualize the institution of the family based on the principle of equality between women and men, specifically looking at collective decision-making.*

*“The way we learn to resolve conflict starts within the family,” said Anjali Doshi, Former Deputy Director General (Policy) of the National Population and Family Development Board.*

*Dr. Doshi continued to explain how the ability to resolve conflict, when nurtured within the family, can find expression through efforts directed toward the common good. “We need to see everyone as a human being and help each other, and not only be concerned with the well-being of the people of our own ethnicity,” she said.*

*Future gatherings will look at the roles of the media and religion in fostering unity. Once the series concludes, the Bahá'í Office of External Affairs aims to distill the insights and experiences from the discussions into a publication as a contribution to the discourse on societal unity.*

## ***Sharing:***

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

*Since our last Nuggets, we have had a wonderful meeting with our new friends in Jaipur. We shared something about ourselves and a little of what we could see happening through our connection, particularly a youth connection. The excitement of seeing each other for the first time was palpable, the love for each other so strong and we were deeply moved by the experience. We hope to meet again in the near future and, in the meantime, email addresses have been exchanged so that we can get to know each other individually.*

*Personally, I have been actively seeking out opportunities to serve in Port Alberni beyond my Baha'i activities. It is an interesting and challenging experience for me to step out of my door and see what happens and I have had lots of ups and downs emotionally. I am learning to rely totally on prayer and to remove my ego from the equation, to always be alert to the possibilities and to accept that I cannot be the judge of what makes a difference.*

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

*Too much rain hinders the work on Nazz Rest Home's land. There is some flooding in the fields. Getting electricity is more accessible than we thought. Once the roads dry, and it is possible to go there, the works of digging a deep well, constructing a room to stay, and planting about 300 trees will start.*



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

### **Practical Economic Suggestions for Everyday Use (Part One)**

**Note: Due to the length of this material, it will be presented in many parts.**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

*The present economic system is sick and is dying. It cannot meet the needs of humanity. The gap between rich and poor is getting wider and wider, which has increased the suffering of the masses. The solutions that can heal it have been ignored. It is time to re-examine the fundamental assumptions that this system was built on and replace them with humane, moral and spiritual ones. We need to build an economic system fit to help humanity to achieve its goal of an ever-advancing civilization, a world where there is no room for economic injustice and people have all the necessities of life so they can live peaceful and fulfilling lives. A shift in thinking is needed. Based on the Baha'i Teachings, this material aims to provide some insight and suggestions for taking steps to lay the foundation for a better economic future. We have the solutions and the technology to build a new system; all we need is the resolve and the will. Everyone has an inherent power to contribute. The time for action is upon us.*

*We live in a very confusing time, particularly after the economic market crash of 2008, which almost destroyed the whole economic system and forced governments to take desperate measures to save the system and avoid universal chaos. That was caused by unchecked greed, which led to a destructiveness that only a lack of morality can create. Many think that terrorism, conflicts and other forms of violence are due to differences in religion or ideologies. But if we dig deeper, we may find that the underlying factor in many cases is a deep sense of resentment from the "Have nots" toward the "Haves." Poverty and powerlessness create resentment since every human being feels entitled to a bare minimum means of existence. With their deep resentments, terrorists find a cause in religions and ideologies to justify their actions.*

*It is important to remember that the Baha'i Economic System will occur when the transformation of man and society has been accomplished and with it man's awareness of his spiritual station and his destiny. He will have subordinated his animal nature and will, therefore, behave less selfishly. At this time, it is almost impossible to imagine a society which has spiritually grown to that extent. But by introducing more of the spiritual qualities in our lives, we are laying the foundation for such a society and such an economic system. Some of our goals may seem idealistic, but that is precisely what we are, idealists. We are dreaming of a better world and are ready to make sure that Bahá'u'lláh's World Commonwealth is going to be established. No great achievement can take place without a goal or dream. Without them, the ever-advancing civilization would have not progressed from the Stone Age to where we are now. But first, let us try to understand economics.*

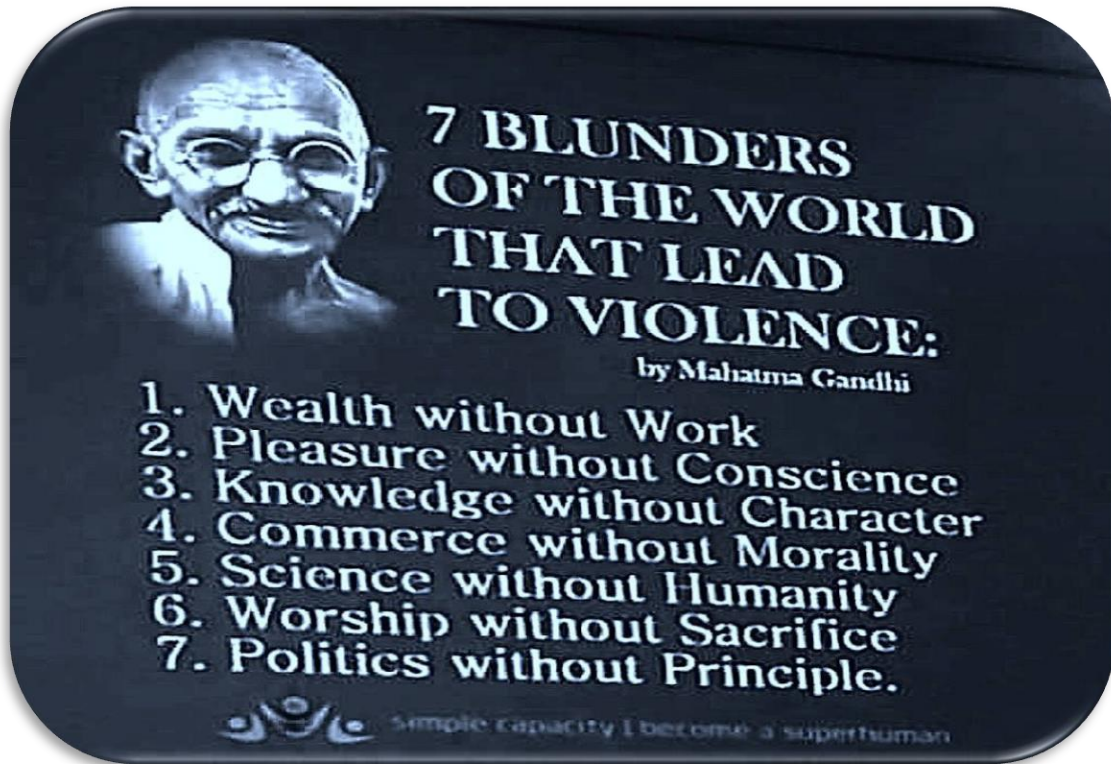
*Abdu'l-Bahá explains the nature of economics and the remedy for its problems:*

***"The secrets of the whole economic question are Divine in nature, and are concerned with the world of the heart and spirit. In the Baha'i Teachings this is most completely explained, and without the consideration of the Baha'i Teachings, it is impossible to bring about a better state."*** – Abdu'l-Bahá, *The Baha'i World, Volume IV, p. 448*

*Shoghi Effendi shed more light on this:*

***"...By the statement 'the economic solution is Divine in nature' is meant that religion alone can, in the last resort, bring in man's nature such a fundamental change as to enable him to adjust the economic relationships of society. It is only in this way that man can control the economic forces that threaten to disrupt the foundations of his existence, and thus assert his mastery over the forces of nature."*** – From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to an individual believer, December 26, 1935, *Lights of Guidance, p.551*

*Famous quotes:*



*Upcoming Events:*

**Coming feast: Mashiyat, Will, September 25, 2021, 7 PM**

**Next feast: Ilm, Knowledge, October 14, 2021, 7 PM**

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