



Port Alberni Nuggets

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Baha'i Quote of the Month



Baha'i Stories:

Bahá'u'lláh -hurts

It was in 1853 when Bahá'u'lláh was banished to Baghdad. Bahá'i historians report the following occurrence; Mirza Aqa Jan himself has testified: "The Blessed Beauty evinced such sadness that the limbs of my body trembled."

"He has, likewise, related, as reported by Nabil in his narrative, that, shortly before Bahá'u'lláh's retirement, he had on one occasion seen Him, between dawn and sunrise, suddenly come out from His house, His night-cap still on His head, showing such signs of perturbation that he was powerless to gaze into His face, and while walking, angrily remark:

"These creatures are the same creatures who for three thousand years have worshipped idols, and bowed down before the Golden Calf. Now, too, they are fit for nothing better. What relation can there be between this people and Him Who is the Countenance of Glory? What ties can bind them to the One Who is the supreme embodiment of all that is lovable?"

"I stood," declared Mirza Aqa Jan, "rooted to the spot, lifeless, dried up as a dead tree, ready to fall under the impact of the stunning power of His words. Finally, He said: 'Bid them recite: "Is there any Remover of difficulties save God? Say: Praised be God! He is God! All are His servants, and all abide by His bidding!" Tell them to repeat it five hundred times, nay, a thousand times, by day and by night, sleeping and waking, that haply the Countenance of Glory may be unveiled to their eyes, and tiers of light descend upon them.' He Himself, I was subsequently informed, recited this same verse, His face betraying the utmost sadness....

".... Several times during those days, He was heard to remark: 'We have, for a while, tarried amongst this people, and failed to discern the slightest response on their part.' Oftentimes He alluded to His disappearance from our midst, yet none of us understood His meaning. -Shoghi Effendi, God Passes By, p. 119

News and Events:

Local News:

We are very excited to have two additions to our small community.

Mr. Rudy Adams. He has moved from Victoria to Port Alberni. He is almost settled in his new house and hopes to join us in our gatherings and activities.

Mr. Leo Tabibzadegan. He and his wife **Chloe** and two kids **Metta** and **Bodhi**. Leo, who used to work here but his family were in Nanaimo, now has bought a house and moved here. We are delighted because he is young and has children, both of which our community desired to have. Leo loves to see his children attending children's classes and hopes to help organize them.

News from our twin LSA of Jaipur, India

After many years the Baha'i House got its badly needed repairs and facelift, the cost of which came to about \$3500. Since there were not enough funds, a loan had to be taken. The Baha'i community of Port Alberni has raised so far about \$500, and soon, it will be sent. Contributions are welcomed. The birthdays of Baha'u'llah and the Bab were celebrated in the newly renovated Jaipur Baha'i House and also in many other towns and villages throughout Rajasthan. Here is a sample of them:





Bahá'í World News Service

Vanuatu: First local Bahá'í temple in the Pacific opens its doors



LENAKEL, Vanuatu — Some 3,000 people from across Vanuatu, in some cases as entire villages, gathered in Lenakel on the island of Tanna for the dedication ceremony of the first local Bahá'í House of Worship in the Pacific on Saturday.

The opening program included remarks by Henry Tamashiro whom the Universal House of Justice had named as its representative to the event. Mr. Tamashiro read a letter of the House of Justice addressed to the gathering, which stated: “This sacred edifice shines out as a beacon of light. May it become a centre from which spiritual forces radiate, may it diffuse the illumination of the Lord, and like unto the resplendent rays of dawn, may it brighten the horizon before you.”

Also in attendance were Prime Minister Bob Loughman and other government officials, representatives from the Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs and the Nikoletan Council of Chiefs, members of diverse faith communities, and representatives of local and national Bahá'í institutions.

In his remarks at the ceremony, Prime Minister Loughman drew on the imagery of the banyan tree, which holds cultural significance in Vanuatu, to describe the temple as a force for unity and peace. “Birds of all kinds, of all colors, come to the banyan tree, eat its fruits, and take shelter under its shade. In the same way, this House of Worship is open to people of all religions, beliefs, and backgrounds. All are welcome to benefit from it.

“I encourage the people of Tanna and Vanuatu, the youth, the chiefs, everyone, to visit the House of Worship,” he said.

These sentiments were echoed by the Mayor of Lenakel, Nakou Samuel: “I want us to prepare ourselves for this House of Worship, which is a place of prayer and service.

“This temple will serve everyone. It will serve you no matter what faith you are from. This is your house. It is a house for Tafea (the province where Tanna is located) and for all of Vanuatu.”

Throughout the program, expressions of hope for the future were interwoven with acknowledgements of the services of past generations. The emergence of the House of Worship was linked in this way to the efforts of the very first Bahá’ís in this land who accepted the Faith in the early 1950s.

Today, over 5,000 people in Tanna are participating in Bahá’í community-building activities, with youth at the forefront.

Serah, a young person from Tanna, stated: “We must render service to our society in a spirit of selflessness and with prayerful devotion. This is the idea that this House of Worship has rooted deeply in our hearts.”

She added: “We’re so encouraged by this dedication ceremony that we’re eager to return to our communities and put these ideas into action.”

The temple, which was recently completed, reflects aspects of Ni-Vanuatu culture and tradition. Nalau Manakel, a member of the Bahá’í National Spiritual Assembly of Vanuatu, stated: “The shape of the House of Worship itself is reminiscent of a volcano, and the nine wings of the roof represent the land and valleys, and the riverbeds that run between them.

“Other elements of the roof also reflect the feather worn by the head chiefs of tribes, and the dancing sticks used by toka dancers, which point to the apex of the temple’s dome as a sign of respect.”

Reflecting on the occasion, Mr. Tamashiro, representative of the Universal House of Justice, expanded on the concept of the House of Worship itself, stating: “Like moths to a flame, we are drawn to this temple.

“It beckons us all to gather and commune with the Source of our being, to draw inspiration, and to contribute to the spiritual and material betterment of our communities.”

Sharing:

Anne’s sharing:

I have been working with my principal re: wording of an email to my art and social Justice classes about sharing photos and videos with Anuj in Jaipur. Looks like it will be sent to parents today for permission!

I Appreciate this story to help me understand:

As an example of the methods of Abdu'l-Baha's teaching: My father was having difficulty understanding this matter of Detachment. Just what were we supposed to become detached from? We were taught not to become isolated and detached as were the monks in a monastery. It was also an obligation to work and support those dependent upon us. So where did detachment fit into this picture? One day Father asked Abdu'l-Baha about all this. They were walking up Broadway after a meeting and Abdu'l-Baha made no answer. After walking a few blocks, Father repeated his question. Still no answer. They reached 76th Street, where the Kinneys lived and turned left to West End Avenue. As they mounted the outside steps, Father asked for the third time. Abdu'l-Baha reached the front door, opened it, and started up the inner stair to His room, Father pattering along after. They reached the second floor, and turned on up to the third, Father following doggedly. Abdu'l-Baha entered His room with Father close on His heels. And there the Master turned. "Mistair Ives," He asked gently, "Are you interested in detachment?" Father, his face scarlet, was silent. He couldn't say he was and he wouldn't say he wasn't.

When thou desirest and yearnest for meeting in the world of vision; at the time when thou art in perfect fragrance and spirituality, wash thy hands and face, clothe thyself in clean robes, turn toward the court of the Peerless One, offer prayer to Him and lay thy head upon the pillow. When sleep cometh, the doors of revelation shall be opened and all thy desires shall become revealed.

— 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá v1, p. 104

Laurand's sharing:

I am pretty good with simple crosswords and jigsaw puzzles. Difficult puzzles are a much different challenge. Maybe, if I had a better education, I would solve many difficult ones like my wife did before she was infected with Alzheimer's disease. I find that most of the Divine scriptural writings are like a puzzle for me. I have great difficulty grasping their spiritual meanings. e.g., "The Hidden Words of Baha'u'llah," I love the ones I understand and wish I could decipher the others.

Abdu'l-Baha says, "The Hidden Words is a treasury of divine mysteries. When thou ponderest its contents, the doors of the mysteries will open" I will keep trying to grasp their meanings and am also reading many other writings trying to apprehend their true meanings. I envy the many people who seem to comprehend a lot of the wonderful writings given to us by the Manifestations of God. Praying "The Remover of difficulties" to help me understand them, I hope, will aid me in solving what is often just a puzzle for me. It seems as if Abdu'l-Baha could understand all of the powerful words given us by all the Manifestations of God. I wish I could be more like Him.

One of my favourite Hidden Words is

"O SON OF BEING! Love Me, that I may love thee. If thou lovest Me not, My love can in no wise reach thee. Know this, O servant". -Baha'u'llah

Badi's sharing:

Butter chicken and oneness of humanity

I am very blessed to still be in touch with my ex-students. A few of them are the lifeguards at the pool I go to regularly, and a few of them swim with me and keep me company in the sauna. Derek, who has the purest heart and has been to my house helping with my garden work, and I have cooked food for him, told me that he wants to cook for me and bring it to my home. I said that would be great and asked what he was planning to cook, and he said, "Butter chicken." I was surprised since that is an East Indian dish, and he is not East Indian. I said that it is good if he does not make it too spicy and hot. On my part, I told him that I would cook rice. On the appointed date, he called to say that his father had come to visit

him from another town and asked if it was ok to come. I was delighted with that news since I had not talked to his father for a long time. It so happened that on that day I had promised an Iranian Muslim lady to come to my house to pick some fruits (Persimmons and Medlars), so I invited her too.

After eating the food, we start to talk about the sad situation of the world and all the crises. Although both the Muslim lady and Derek's father were staunch in their beliefs, they agreed about the negative role of priests and Mullas (called them God's middlemen) in creating hatred and divisions. That allowed me to mention that the Baha'i Faith has no priest and believes that all religions fundamentally are one and differ only in their social laws. At the end of our discussion, we agreed that the only solution for solving the world's problems is all nations' united efforts and finding a religion that combines all the religions in one.

After they left and I did the dishes, I realized what an amazing thing had happened where a Muslim, a Baha'i and Christians agreed on the need for a universal and all-inclusive religion. I tried to analyze how this happened and could not reach any conclusion except that the spirit of unity and oneness released by Baha'u'llah's revelation is at work with full force. All I can do is try to add to the strength of its power; if not, do not stand as an obstacle in its path.

Poem by Tahera

What can I ask of Thee?

**Before Thee I bow,
To cry out my woes,
To pour out my sorrows,
And fears for tomorrow.**

**But then
I quickly silence myself,
For Thou knowest me,
Far better than I know myself.**

**For my heart's secrets,
In characters clear and bold,
Are manifest before Your presence,
Even though untold.**

**Before Thee I kneel,
And spell out my needs,
But then I realise,
My worthless greed.**

**He gives , He bestows,
Even before being asked, He knows.
All creation is Thine,
Yet I call everything mine.**

**So give me the wisdom,
O my Lord!
That I approach You not,
With a lifeless heart.**

**That I bring to Thee, not my wants,
Nor my aches,
I pray to Thee , I yearn for Thee,
Only for Thy love , for love's sake.**

**May to sing Thy praise,
Be my sole desire.
And to serve Thee,
Thou wouldst set my soul on fire.**

Tahera

Practical Economic Suggestions for Everyday Use (Part Four)

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

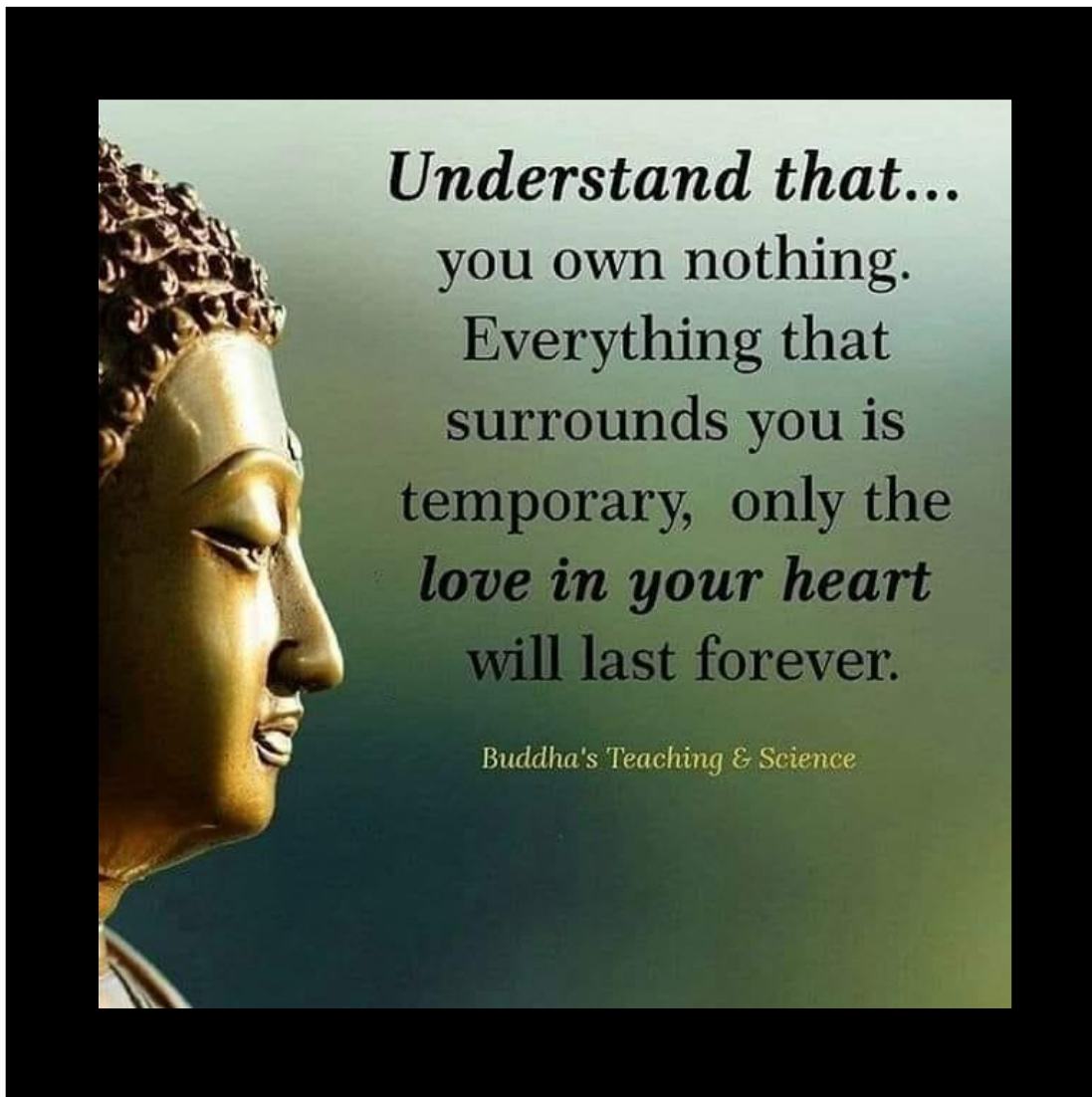
Based on the Baha'i Writings, the suggestions below may hopefully help you bring about this fundamental change in your character and everyday economic actions. There are 53 suggestions, but we discuss nine on this blog.

This list of suggestions may seem overwhelming, and you may not be able to practice all those that apply to your situation. But you have to remember that it is not about the results; it is about sincere and wholehearted efforts. It is a pure intention that counts.

- 10. **Be content with a reasonable margin of profit.** There is no end to greed in our society, so being satisfied with earning a certain profit will create a sense of contentment and provide an example to others. This is an extension of how much is enough? There is nothing wrong with being satisfied and content with a set amount of profit.*
- 11. **Update yourself with the latest information** and study in your field to provide a better service, be the leader in your profession, and be punctual in business and other meetings. Being on time at work increases the efficiency of the system and demonstrates respect for others. If time is money, then one should not waste it.*
- 12. Remember that your **actions are the best manifestation of your beliefs**, and be conscious of them. The cliché is true that actions speak louder than words. We should be an example for others since we are the ones to lead society towards an ever-advancing civilization.*
- 13. If you are lending money, ask for a **reasonable interest rate** and not the maximum rate. We are told that the rate of interest has to be fair and reasonable. Baha'u'llah has advised us to do so. Banks should not be the only ones setting interest rates.*
- 14. **Resist the consumer mentality** which exists in our society. As the standard of living rises, consumerism increases and consuming becomes a bad habit with severe consequences. Fighting this tendency is very important for our economic life and our spiritual development. Consumerism has become a disease that is spreading fast, and its forces are paralyzing the progress of our souls.*
- 15. **Be knowledgeable about advertising.** Advertisements conceal the information we need to buy a product, and they make false claims, using psychological methods to make a sale. Advertising covers all areas of our economic life. One has to be very savvy to navigate through all the false claims of advertising. Selling has become very sophisticated, and one has to be very smart about it and read between the lines.*
- 16. **Spiritually justify our expenditure.** With so much poverty in the world today, we have to answer to our conscience for any unnecessary spending. We have been advised to be frugal in our spending. It would be beneficial if we could create in us this "policeman" to check our spending.*

17. **Avoid wastage** in the workplace and suggest ways to cut down on waste. We can all help in some way to avoid the loss of resources.
18. **Protect the environment** in your business and personal life. We owe it to future generations to protect the environment. It would be sad if humanity grows spiritually in the future, but the damage is done, and our environment is destroyed.

Famous quotes:



Upcoming Events:

Coming feast: Qawl, Speech, November 21, 2021, 7 PM
Next feast: Masa'il, Questions, December 10, 2021, 7 PM

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