

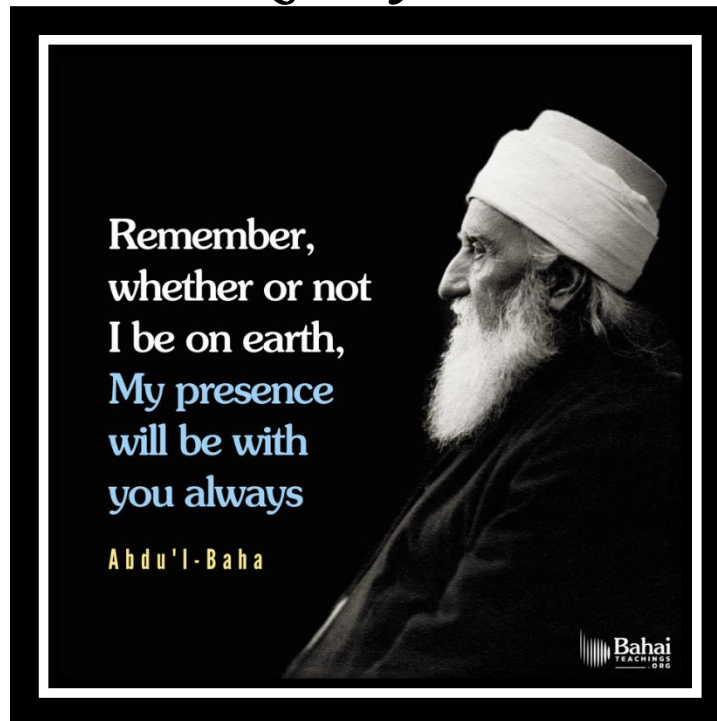


## Port Alberni Nuggets

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### Baha'i Quote of the Month



### Baha'i Stories:

**“The Master knew the day and hour...”**  
(part two)

*A month before His last hour, Doctor Sulayman Rafat Bey, a Turkish friend, who was a guest in the house, received a telegram telling him of the sudden death of his brother. `Abdu'l-Bahá speaking words of comfort to him, whispered, “Sorrow not, for he is only transferred from this plane to a higher one; I too shall soon be transferred, for my days are numbered.” Then patting him gently on the shoulder, He looked him in the face and said, “And it will be in the days that are shortly to come.”*

*In the same week He revealed a Tablet to America, in which is the following prayer:*

*Yá Bahá'u'l-Abhá! (O Thou the Glory of Glories) I have renounced the world and the people thereof, and am heart-broken and sorely afflicted because of the unfaithful. In the cage of this world, I flutter even as a frightened bird, and yearn every day to take my flight unto Thy Kingdom.*

*Yá Bahá'u'l-Abhá! Make me to drink of the cup of sacrifice and set me free. Relieve me from these woes and trials, from these afflictions and troubles. Thou art He that aideth, that succoureth, that protecteth, that stretcheth forth the hand of help.*

*On the last Friday morning of His stay on earth (November 25th) He said to His daughters, "The wedding of Khusraw must take place today. If you are too much occupied, I myself will make the necessary preparations, for it must take place this day." . . .*

*'Abdu'l-Bahá attended the noonday prayer at the Mosque. When He came out He found the poor waiting for the alms, which it was His custom to give every Friday. This day, as usual, He stood, in spite of very great fatigue, whilst He gave a coin to every one with His own hands.*

*After lunch He dictated some Tablets, His last ones, to Ruhi Effendi. When He had rested He walked in the garden. He seemed to be in a deep reverie.*

*His good and faithful servant, Isma'il Áqá, relates the following:*

*Some time, about twenty days before my Master passed away I was near the garden when I heard Him summon an old believer saying, "Come with me that we may admire together the beauty of the garden. Behold, what the spirit of devotion is able to achieve! This flourishing place was, a few years ago, but a heap of stones, and now it is verdant with foliage and flowers. My desire is that after I am gone the loved ones may all arise to serve the Divine Cause and, please God, so it shall be. Ere long men will arise who shall bring life to the world."*

*A few days after this He said, "I am so fatigued! The hour is come when I must leave everything and take my flight. I am too weary to walk." Then He said, "It was during the closing days of the Blessed Beauty, when I was engaged in gathering together His papers, which were strewn over the sofa in His writing chamber at Bahji that He turned to me and said, 'It is of no use to gather them, I must leave them and flee away.' I also have finished my work, I can do nothing more, therefore must I leave it and take my departure."*

*Three days before His ascension whilst seated in the garden, He called me and said, "I am sick with fatigue. Bring two of your oranges for me that I may eat them for your sake." This I did, and He having eaten them turned to me, saying "Have you any of your sweet lemons?" He bade me fetch a few . . . Whilst I was plucking them, He came over to the tree, saying, "Nay, but I must gather them with my own hands." Having eaten of the fruit He turned to me and asked "Do you desire anything more?" Then with a pathetic gesture of His hands, He touchingly, emphatically and deliberately said, "Now it is finished, it is finished!"*

*These significant words penetrated my very soul. I felt each time He uttered them as if a knife were struck into my heart. I understood His meaning but never dreamed His end was so nigh. – Hasan M. Balyuzi, 'Abdu'l-Bahá: The Centre of the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh, pp. 457-460.*

## **News and Events:**

### **Local News:**

*The Baha' friends of our community raised Rs.50,000 (\$850) for the teaching activities of Jaipur and Rajasthan. It is hoped that there could be a small but sustainable contribution towards their teaching efforts.*

## News from our twin LSA of Jaipur, India

*The Baha'i representative of Rajasthan to the Holy Land, Mr. Rameshwar Prasad, returned and was welcomed Rajasthani style with love and many garlands (maybe too much love). Every single day there have been numerous activities by JY and children classes. The youth cleaned the Baha'i Cemetery (Golestan). There was a Baha'i youth gathering in Watika near Jaipur, and 150 participated. In the same area, 7 youth declared their Faith in just one day. The youth camps are a regular feature.*



*Bahá'í World News Service*

## UN Calls on Iran to end religious discrimination



The UN General Assembly calls on Iran to observe human rights for all its citizens, including members of the Bahá'í Faith.

*NEW YORK — The United Nations General Assembly has called on the Iranian government to end its discrimination of minorities in Iran, including of the Bahá'í community, Iran's largest non-Muslim religious minority. The vote confirms a Third Committee resolution passed in November. The resolution, endorsed by the General Assembly's 76th session and introduced by Canada and 47 co-sponsors from all regions, passed by 78 votes in favor, with 31 against and 69 abstentions. "The international community has, yet again, used its highest forum to call on the Islamic Republic to abide by its human rights commitments and to respect the rights of the Bahá'is," said Bani Dugal,*



*Principal Representative of the Bahá'í International Community to the United Nations. "We are grateful for this constant support—and we hope the Iranian government will heed this call."*

*Resolutions on Iran's human rights situation have been tabled and approved since the early 1980s—making it one of the UN's most enduring and troubling human rights concerns. The Bahá'ís face harassment and intimidation, arbitrary detention in violation of due process, incitement to hatred in the media and from the pulpit, denial of business licenses and livelihoods, denial of access to higher education and confiscations of property.*

*One of the latest incidents, in the village of Kata, saw thirteen irrigated farmlands belonging to Bahá'ís listed for public auction without their permission. The auction came during a serious water shortage in Iran, which may have been a pretext by authorities who for years have tried to expropriate Bahá'í-owned assets.*

*Numerous other instances of persecution of Bahá'ís in Iran—a constant since the 1979 Islamic Revolution—have also been reported over recent months. Lands belonging to Bahá'ís in Semnan, Roshankouh, and Ivel have been confiscated; hate propaganda articles have increased; new evidence has emerged of the religious prejudice motivating Iran's policy of banning Bahá'ís from higher education; and official documents have come to light that detail measures ordered by security services to suppress the Bahá'í community.*

## **Sharing:**

*Lesley's sharing:*

### **Habits of Thought**

*Lately, in meetings, we have been talking about habits of thought, modes of expression and patterns of action that affect us in our Baha'i lives, and I thought it would be useful to dedicate some space to this subject.*

*We all have habits of the mind formed throughout our lives that cause us to behave in certain ways or say things at times without thinking. As we acquire an understanding of the Baha'i teachings, it is important to pause from time to time and examine the validity of commonly made statements in the light of new understanding. If we want to speak to people about the Faith and we believe that no one wants to hear about religion, we will be reluctant to say anything. If we think of our community as only the Baha'ís and we don't have a vision of members of the larger community coming into the Faith or walking the path beside us, this affects our interactions with others. If we don't recognize that our Local Spiritual Assembly is destined to administer to the affairs of thousands and become local Houses of Justice, this hampers our effectiveness. In other parts of the world, people in a community turn to the Local Spiritual Assembly for guidance because they have recognized its capacity.*

*Similarly, we are one human family. We need to recognize that our family is more than our blood relatives and includes many more in our lives who become part of our family. There will be differences just like in our nuclear families, but our lives will become richer for being intertwined with others in our human family.*

We also have to carefully examine our modes of expression and patterns of action. The vaccinated versus the unvaccinated is only one example of the way society has become polarized. There are many struggles in the larger society that can permeate our community. We stand for unity, and therefore we cannot become involved in these divisions. We need to be very careful and approach situations with a posture of humility and learning. Rather than getting drawn into conflict, we need to look for the point of unity.

*“You are among the most active and earnest of humanity’s well-wishers. But, whether through deeds or words, the merit of your every contribution to social well-being lies, first, in your resolute commitment to discover that precious point of unity where contrasting perspectives overlap and around which contending peoples can coalesce.” -Universal House of Justice, 25 November 2020*

*The standard of our Faith is, of course, very high, and it’s a constant struggle to live up to it! But the standard has to be foremost in our minds and needs to impact our lives. In our everyday interactions, we need to practice justice, fairness, honesty and trustworthiness in filling out our income tax or submitting expense forms, avoiding backbiting and gossip in the workplace, being in constant servitude to the loved ones who come into our lives.*

*It will continue to be a constant struggle to transform ourselves and society, and we need to be prepared to help each other to learn how to overcome our habits of mind, ways of expressing ourselves and our behaviors and actions in a consultative manner, not allowing diversity of opinion to become a source of conflict in our attempts to “get it right.” We are living in a world of conflict that will continue for a long time, and we need to be the source of welcome, love and respect to others in our human family.*

### *Anne’s sharing:*

*This quote really made me stop and think this week. Who am I? Really? Light and not-light ... learning and growing and tests to help remove the dross from the mirror of my soul. Opportunities to change and develop. Growth and developing awareness with its accompanying uncomfortableness ... and gratitude for glimpses of sparks of the divine.*



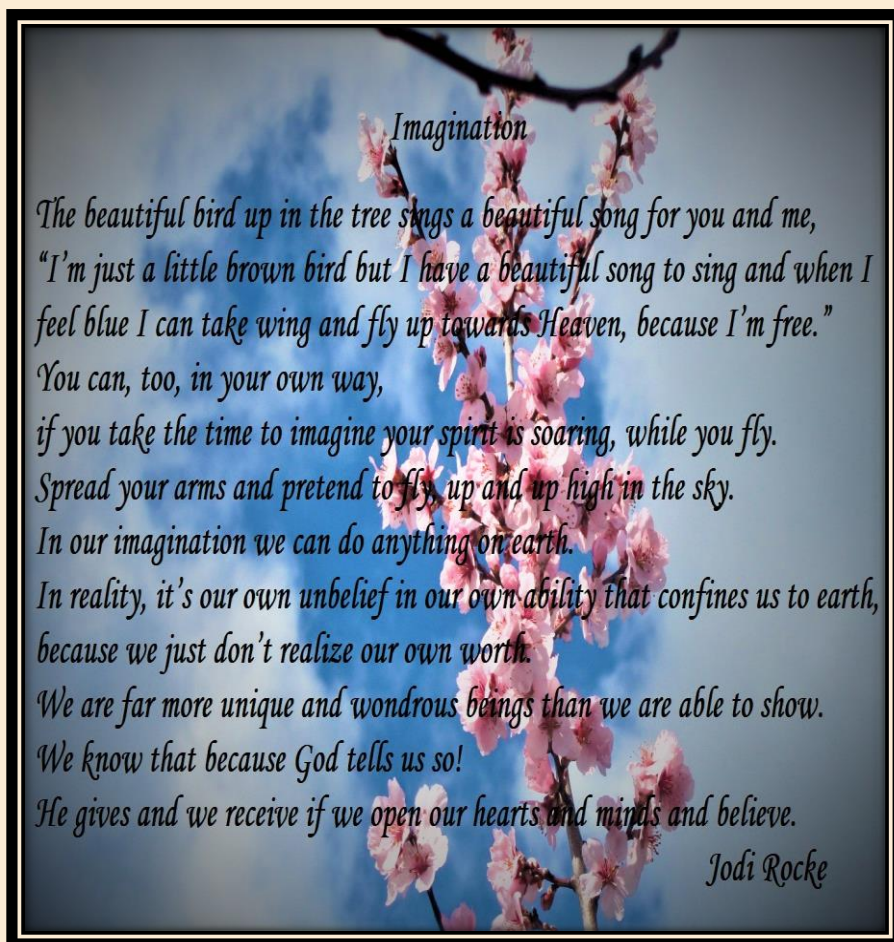
## Laurand's sharing:



*Abdu'l-Baha was extraordinary; he was always giving of himself to help others. One day his Father said he would give himself away after he gave the shepherds all the sheep. Abdu'l-Baha was known as the Exemplar. Looking at his life, one soon realizes that he was an example for everyone to follow. He was gracious and compassionate to everyone. He was as precious as the Faith he espoused. I pray I can accomplish just a little bit of what he brought about during his life on earth.*

**“O SON OF MAN! Rejoice in the gladness of thine heart, that thou mayest be worthy to me meet Me and to mirror forth My beauty.”** -The hidden words of Baha'u'llah

## Poem by Judi



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## From the editor's desk:

**Aren't they human too?**

**by: Antonella Medina Arias, 17 years old**

*When I watch the news  
There are hundreds of immigrants, risking everything to leave their home  
To a safer life.  
With only the clothes they have on, and their native language  
As tokens of their country consumed in violence.  
Illegal immigrants fight the four elements, and the guards at the border  
Where their human rights disappear like smoke and they have less freedom than the animals in the zoo.  
When I see the aftermath of their travels, where only the strong have a chance to survive  
I cry out to the government  
Aren't they humans too?*

*When I share the bus with the black kid  
Full of hopes and dreams, his life ahead of him  
We share tired smiles, guessing what we have for lunch, missing our mother's laughter.  
Until he didn't  
Because his appearance was deadlier than the gun  
In the officer's hand  
The blood spilled in the street was justified  
Because you can't be black and be innocent at the same time  
To the eyes of the law, he was a criminal  
But for me, he was a boy I did not know by name, rather by his soul  
Today as I climb the bus with his ghost, I still hear his usual greeting and voice  
I dare to question the police and ask  
Wasn't he human too?*

*When I go to the mall with my gay friend  
He picks the best clothes, the brightest colors  
Because his fashion sense rivals international supermodels  
While mine is worse than Sponge Bob's pineapple house  
We giggle about nothing and everything  
He cheers me up with a wink and a smirk  
And I walk by his side, arms linked  
Yet my heart cannot cast aside  
The nasty looks, the red marks, the puffy eyes  
When they spit and step on the rainbow, shunning him for daring to come out  
I cry colorful tears, cursing his family who doesn't deserve him.  
Turning his back and cutting him off  
Because he had the audacity to be himself  
As we dance to Gloria Gaynor's "I will survive"  
Singing at the top of our lungs, voices cracking  
I challenge the homophobic, shouting  
Isn't he human too?*

*When I buy sweets from the nice Muslim lady  
I leave with a smile on my face, and a new piece of wisdom*



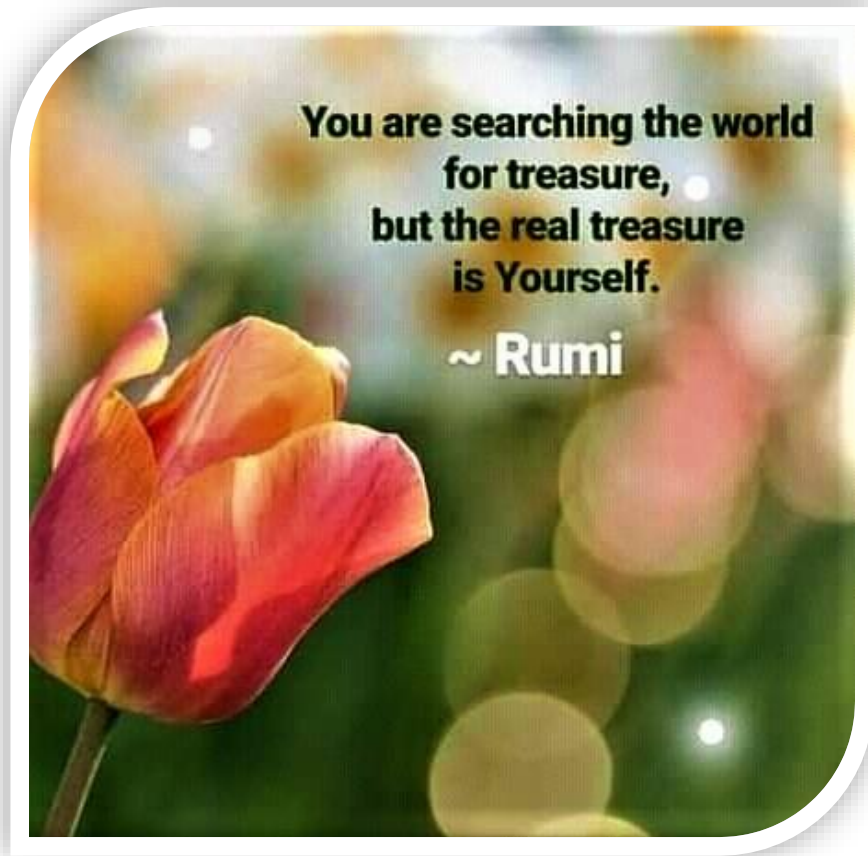
*Even with her body covered head to toe  
You can feel this woman holds the secrets of the universe  
Sending prayers to my family of health and wealth  
I listen to her sayings, her rhymes, her teachings  
How her god is good and peaceful and curious  
Her religion isn't a punishment, and she's a proud believer  
But today her god isn't here, and the devils converge  
Her voice is lost, her hijab torn to pieces by the close-minded, those who refuse to understand,  
She's seen as a threat, a terrorist, as if she wasn't born in the same land as them.  
As I share my mother's food with her  
Gossiping about school and the latest movie scandal  
I whisper to the sky, where all deities share Heaven  
Isn't she human too?*

*When I walk down the school hallways  
I wonder with how many future politicians, astronauts, chefs, scientists, mathematicians,  
I had shared this building with.  
Women are living the Barbie dream, we can be anything.  
Times are little bit more gentler with us, but still hard.  
As we progress, so does our ancient enemy, it's trickier to find the devil in between now.  
Love is our blessing and our curse.  
It can be the best thing of our life. It can take the shape of our soulmate, a friend, a child.  
A reason to live for, a reason to die for.  
The strongest force of good can be the most powerful poison  
I wonder, how many good women had been lost to marriage?  
How many girls could only dream, inside a cage of gold, as a slave for her husband.  
Wedlock is to unite two souls, to promise to give and receive.  
Yet for centuries, men had taken so, so, much and given back so, so, little.  
Every time I pass a girl, I send a silent plea of "stay safe"  
Begging she can see the wolf in sheep's clothing, before it's too late.  
With anger in my heart, I cry in rage to all men  
Isn't she human too?*

*The thing is  
Society is scared of differences  
People who don't look the same, act the same, believe the same, are a threat  
We strike down anything unordinary instead of aiding it.  
And this is not okay!  
Differences make us unique! Special! Extraordinary!  
It's impossible to reach perfection, because we have to be inhuman to do so.  
Black, white, brown, gay, lesbian, queen, trans, Latin, Asian, Indian, Indigenous.  
Our differences make us human!  
So, I dare to raise my voice and request you to look at the people around you  
Stare at their eyes, look out for their souls  
And ask yourself  
Aren't they human too?*



*Famous quotes:*



*Upcoming Events:*

**Coming feast: Sharaf, Honor, December 29, 2021, 7 PM**  
**Next feast: Sultan, Sovereignty. January 17, 2022, 7 PM**

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