



Port Alberni Nuggets

Volume 1, Issue No. 31

(Sultan, Sovereignty), 177, B.E

Baha'i Quote of the Month



Baha'i Stories:

*Ruhiyyih Khanum said she had a dream one night: she dreamed that the dam had burst and that there was a great flood. She rushed down to the water's edge to try to save someone, but the current swept them past. She reached out to try to grasp and save another. She grasped one by the hair, and, with great effort, brought that one to shore. Then she tried to reach another, but the current swept him by. She looked up at the side of the mountain, and there she saw 'Abdu'l-Bahá, who looked like a Prophet of God, with his white turban and flowing beard, with his back to the flood, working very hard. She rushed up the mountain side, grasped His sleeves and said, "Oh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, come and help me save some of these people who are drowning in the flood." 'Abdu'l-Bahá went right on, working very rapidly and said nothing. She grasped his sleeve again and said, "Oh 'Abdu'l-Bahá, these people are drowning, come help me save some of these people who are drowning in the flood." 'Abdu'l-Bahá, without stopping his work turned to her with a smile and said, "**'Abdu'l-Bahá is building the machine to stop the flood.**" (That is what is taking place in the world today)*

-Ruhaniyyih Ruth Moffett, Visiting the Bahá'í World, 1954-09

News and Events:

News from our twin LSA of Jaipur, India

The non-stop activities continue with great enthusiasm with many JY groups, devotional gatherings and children classes.

Door-to-door invitations for devotionals and children classes were given. More young people accepted the Faith by signing a declaration card.



Bahá'í World News Service

Spirit of service inspires immediate response to floods in Malaysia



SHAH ALAM, Malaysia — When heavy rainfall caused severe flooding in different regions of Malaysia last month, the spirit of service and collective action that had been fostered through Bahá'í community-building activities in and near affected areas was immediately channeled toward relief efforts.

A message from the Bahá'í Spiritual Assembly of Malaysia called on Bahá'í Local Spiritual Assemblies in that country to follow 'Abdu'l-Bahá's example, "remembering His all-embracing love for people of all nations, races, and beliefs," and to "respond to the crying needs of... [their] fellow countrymen at this hour of need."

Local Spiritual Assemblies moved to action, using Bahá'í centers as hubs for the collection and distribution of food, clothing, cleaning materials, and other essentials, while families throughout Malaysia opened their homes as shelters. In many instances, entire families and groups of people travelled long distances to affected areas to assist.

Among the first to respond were youth participating in community-building endeavors. Yamla Sathiyaseelan, a coordinator of Bahá'í educational programs in the city of Shah Alam, describes the experience of a group of young people near the Sri Muda neighborhood: "As soon as floodwaters had receded, groups of youth in the surrounding neighborhoods decided to take action.

"Several youth groups in different neighborhoods quickly connected with one another to coordinate their efforts. After consulting with Bahá'í institutions, some of these youth arrived in Sri Muda to assist different families."

One of the youth involved in the effort describes how the act of service by a few people can inspire yet more people to action, saying: "Our numbers were small, and we were very tired after the first day.

"That night, we sent out messages to people we knew, searching for more volunteers. More people came to help the next day, which allowed us to split up into a few different teams for cooking and packing meals, for distribution, and to assist families with cleaning their homes."

The spiritual principle of consultation was key to the relief efforts in Bahá'í communities throughout Malaysia.

Mirshal Lourdasamy, a member of a local Bahá'í institution in Shah Alam, says: "The culture of consultation that has emerged from the community-building process is what helped us to plan and act immediately and to collaborate with organizations of civil society. Conversations were also initiated with different faith communities to combine strengths in the relief efforts."

Ms. Lourdasamy explains, "Many people now see themselves as part of an extended family, and not just as strangers, friends, or acquaintances who happen to live next to one another."

A member of the Local Assembly of Shah Alam, Lourdasamy Packiasamy, reflecting on recent efforts, states: "This disaster has shown us that when individuals, the community, and institutions work harmoniously together, their power to contribute to the well-being of their society is greatly multiplied."

Sharing:

Anne's sharing:

This eases my heart.

I love the phrase "the Hand of God is over your hands" learning to let go and KNOW His hand covers mine and guides it. Part of my job is "to cease from troubling and be at peace." Gotta work at this!! But what a beautiful image!!!

.... Know ye not that the Hand of God is over your hands, that His Decree transcendeth all your devices, that He is supreme over His servants, that He is equal to His Purpose, that He doth what He wisheth, that He shall not be asked of whatever He wisheth, that He ordaineth what He pleaseth, that He is the Most Powerful, the Almighty? If ye believe this to be the truth, wherefore, then, will ye not cease from troubling and be at peace with yourselves?

Bahá'u'lláh

Laurand's sharing:

These beautiful words of Baha'u-llah touch my heart.

"O FRIEND!

In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love, and from the nightingale of affection and desire loosen not thy hold. Treasure the companionship of the righteous and eschew all fellowship with the ungodly." ^^^

Poem of the month

Fear

Khalil Gibran

It is said that before entering the sea
a river trembles with fear.

She looks back at the path she has traveled,
from the peaks of the mountains,
the long winding road crossing forests and villages.

And in front of her,
she sees an ocean so vast,
that to enter
there seems nothing more than to disappear forever.

But there is no other way.
The river can not go back.

Nobody can go back.
To go back is impossible in existence.

The river needs to take the risk
of entering the ocean
because only then will fear disappear,
because that's where the river will know
it's not about disappearing into the ocean,
but of becoming the ocean.

News and Nuggets from our First Nations Community



Teaching from inside the womb



During each of Elizabeth Jack's pregnancies, her husband talked to his unborn daughters from inside her womb. Whether the couple was out hunting or fishing, Matthew would speak to his wife's stomach as if it could talk back.

It wasn't anything poetic. He approached those conversations practically, explaining where they were, what they were fishing for and which lure he was using. Now, when you ask his eldest daughter, Norah, how long she has been hunting for, the 11-year-old proudly replies, "ever since I was in my mom's belly."

Mathew's father was a logger, which meant that he was often away working at camp. Largely raised by his grandmother and mother, he feels like one of the "lucky ones." Deeply rooted in their spiritual teachings, Matthew has always felt a strong connection to his Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tles7et'h' First Nations' culture. While he aims to instil those values within his daughters, his lessons are primarily for survival.

"I'm trying to teach my girls that they can do anything," he said. "Anything can happen – if I'm not there I want them to be prepared. Whether it be earthquakes or tsunamis, I want them to be able to take care of themselves and those around them."

As a six-year-old boy, Matthew's mother, Norah, used to paddle him out in a hand-made rowboat around Aktis Island. Carrying a .22-calibre rifle, Norah would aim at the flock of cormorants that predictably sat on the nearby rocks, oblivious that they would be served as the family's next meal.

"We survived off the land when I was young," said Matthew. While many First Nations are focused on the loss of language, Matthew has concentrated on imparting his grandmother's teachings on traditional food gathering. "That's a big part of our heritage," he said. "Knowing all the foods you can harvest from the ocean or the land and knowing the connection with each one of them."

As many youth forgo their traditional foods – like shellfish – in favour of pizza pockets, Matthew said his daughters crave the food they have reeled in from the ocean or shot out of the sky. On their hunting trips, they say a prayer after the killing of each deer, "letting go and giving thanks for the life of that deer," said Matthew.

There is sternness to his teachings. When his youngest, Bella, left a knife turned upright in the boat, he sharply told the nine-year-old to turn the blade down. And yet, there is softness.

He has been teaching his three daughters, Norah, Bella and Matty, how to use a knife "since they learned to walk." When Bella cut her hand while learning to carve, he reassured her not to worry. "That's part of learning," he gently told her. "You'll get cut and hurt, but it happens – you'll heal." His pride as a father is unmistakable. As he recounted the story of Norah shooting a duck through its beak from a boat that was travelling 28 miles per hour, he beamed with a smile that spread cheek to cheek.

Elizabeth shares in his delight. "Proud," is the word she uses when describing her children.

“Proud – because I never grew up that way,” she said. “I’m glad these guys are learning when they’re young. Hopefully they keep passing it on to their kids.”

While the land might not be as plentiful when the couple’s daughters have children of their own, there are certain teachings that will remain constant.

“When we’re on the boat, we have to know our surroundings,” said Bella. “We memorize the mountain tops so we can always find our way home.”

From the editor's desk:

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Practical Economic Suggestions for Everyday Use (Part Six)

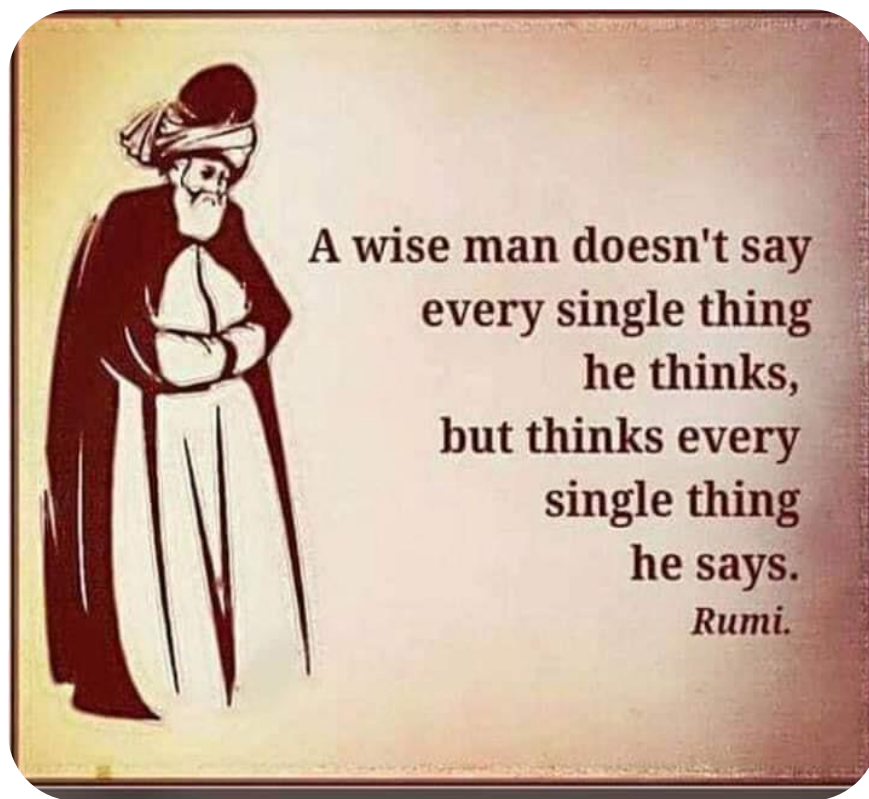
Based on the Baha’i Writings, the suggestions below may hopefully help you to bring about this fundamental change in your character and your everyday economic actions. There are 53 suggestions but we discuss 9 on this blog.

28. ***Support the concept of one world currency.*** *If we have fewer currencies to exchange, life becomes much easier, and this is a good step in the right direction towards world unity. And anything that can promote world unity is extremely important.*
29. ***Don’t follow society’s shortcuts with regards to taxation.*** *There are claims made which can perhaps be legally justified but are morally wrong.*
30. ***Make honest insurance claims.*** *False insurance claims have become like a source of income for some who claim damages to their bodies or their properties. This misuse hurts every honest person because the cost insurance will increase due to the increase in the dishonest claims. There are some incidences that though legally, one can make a claim, but morally it does not go with the spirit of honesty.*
31. ***Make fair expense claims at work.*** *It has become a common practice to claim the maximum amount even if it is not used, but we have the duty, to be honest about them.*
32. ***Do not abuse sick leave.*** *Some people use their sick leave even though they are not ill. They think that if they do not use it, they will lose it. But in reality, though sick leave is a right but has to be used in the right spirit, which when one is sick and should not be considered as a paid day off, even one is not sick.*
33. ***Return to the store when you realize you have been undercharged or receive too much change for your purchase.*** *This is practicing the virtue of honesty. Watch the face of the cashier when you do this. He or she is probably wondering, “Who are these people?” The answer is that we are the people from the future, where honesty is the norm.*
34. ***Resist corrupt practices of bribery and cheating.*** *In some places in the world, giving bribes is a way of life, and that is a test and an opportunity to fight this harmful practice. It is very hard in places like India and China where I have lived. Refusing to participate in these practices is very difficult.*

35. **Regard service first and profit second.** This seems idealistic in society, but for Bahá'is, it is considered a way of life. And in the long run, it is the best advertisement one can buy for free.

36. **Participate in social and economic projects.** We can help to change the world for the better by getting involved in these projects. And they are a valuable way of learning and contributing. We need to gain experience in social activities so that we can contribute more in the future.

Famous quotes:



Upcoming Events:

Coming feast: Mulk/Dominion, February 5, 2022, 7 PM

Ayyam-i-Ha, February 24- March 1, 2022

Fasting starts March 2, 2022

Next feast: Ala/Loftiness, March 1, 2022, 7 PM

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