

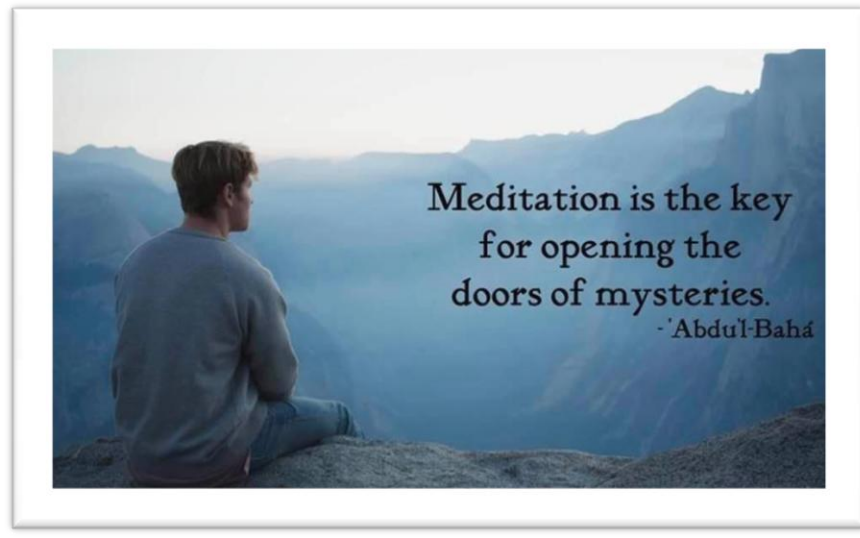


## *Port Alberni Nuggets*

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*Masá'il (Questions), 177, B.E*

### *Bahá'i quote of the Month*



### **Stories:**

Early in the days of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's imprisonment in the barracks in 'Akka, news of His wisdom spread from a butcher's shop. He and a few of Bahá'u'lláh's companions had left the barracks to procure food and other necessary items from the markets. In the butcher's shop where the Master waited to be served, a Muslim and a Christian were apparently expounding the merits of their respective faiths. The Christian was winning the discussion. Thereupon, 'Abdu'l-Bahá entered the conversation and with simplicity and eloquence proved the validity of Islam to the satisfaction of the Christian. The news of this incident 'spread and warmed the hearts of many people of 'Akka towards the Master; this was the beginning of His immense popularity among the inhabitants of that city.' There even came a time when the governor of the city, Ahmad Big Tawfiq, sent his own son to 'Abdu'l-Bahá for instruction and enlightenment.

Honnold, Annamarie, *Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá*, p. 119

## News and events:

# UN Resolution Condemns Human Rights Violations in Iran

BAHA'I WORLD NEWS SERVICE | NOV 21, 2020



A committee of the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution on Wednesday November 18, 2020, calling on Iran to observe human rights for all its citizens, including members of the Baha'i Faith.

The Third Committee of the General Assembly approved the resolution by a vote of 79 to 32, with 64 abstentions.

*The Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly today adopted a resolution that expresses its serious concern about Iran's continued attacks against religious minorities, including the Baha'is, by a vote of 84 to 30, with 66 abstentions.*

The resolution calls on Iran to “eliminate, in law and practice, ... all forms of discrimination on the basis of thought, conscience, religion or belief, including economic restrictions, ... the denial of and restrictions on access to education, including for members of the Baha'i faith...” The resolution also urges an end to “other human rights violations against persons belonging to recognized and unrecognized religious minorities.”

For over 40 years, the entire Baha'i community in Iran has been subject to continuous state-sponsored persecution, which the Baha'i International Community (BIC) describes as multidimensional and affecting every one of its members across generations, within every phase of life, and even in death.

The BIC says, “While the specific tactics employed by the Iranian authorities have sometimes changed, their aim of destroying the Baha'i community as a viable entity in Iran continues in full force.”

Bani Dugal, the BIC's Principal Representative to the United Nations, says, “Through various means, the authorities maintain focus on this goal by striving to exclude Baha'is from the public sphere, prevent them from expressing their beliefs, impoverish them economically, undermine their intellectual advancement, erase traces of their history and culture, as well as spread disinformation about them and incite the public so as to create an environment of hatred against them.

“Let us hope that Iran will at long last pay heed to the recommendations in this resolution and the international community's call for it to uphold the human rights of its citizens.”

## Inspiring stories:

All the Bahá'ís in Iran loved and respected Haji Amin, and many wonderful stories are told about his sincerity and devotion. Once, when he was about to set off for the Holy Land, a very poor woman gave him a small coin to take with him. Haji Amin thanked her and put it in his pocket. As soon as he arrived at the home of 'Abdul-Bahá, he presented to Him the donations he had collected, as he always did. The Master would usually thank him and praise him for his untiring labours. Haji Amin's integrity was not to be questioned, and he had never made a mistake in his calculations. Indeed, it was not difficult for him to keep his accounts as he never had any money of his own. This time, however, to his utter astonishment, when 'Abdul-Bahá was presented with the money, He looked at Haji Amin kindly and said something was missing from the amount. Haji Amin left the Master's presences with much sadness, unable to understand what could have happened. He went to his room in tears and prostrated himself in prayer. As he did so, he felt a hard piece of metal under his knee. It was the small coin the poor woman had given him to take to the Holy Land as he was leaving. The coin had slipped through a hole in his pocket into the lining of his long coat. Haji Amin immediately took the coin and went to 'Abdul-Bahá. The Master showered His praises on him. He kissed the coin and said this was worth more than all the other donations because it had been given with the greatest sacrifice. (Gloria Faizi, Stories about Bahá'í Funds, p. 47-48)

## From editor's desk:

### **Baha'i Teachings on Economics, a Deepening (Part One)**

The Universal House of Justice has instructed us to deepen our knowledge on economics and practice the Teachings in our economic activities.

**“... accrue knowledge and experience, gradually but consistently, about the higher purpose of economic activity. Against the background of the age-long work of erecting a divine civilization, may this exploration become a more pronounced feature of community life, institutional thought, and individual action in the years ahead.”**

*-The Universal House of Justice, 1 March 2017*

**“Although the body politic is one family yet because of lack of harmonious relations some members are comfortable and some in direst misery, some members are satisfied and some are hungry, some members are clothed in most costly garments and some members are in need of food and shelter. Why? Because this family lacks the necessary reciprocity and symmetry. This household is not well arranged. This household is not living under a perfect law. All the laws which are legislated do not ensure happiness. They do not provide comfort.”**

- 'Abdu'l-Bahá: Foundations of World Unity, p. 38; and Star of the West, Vol. XIII, p. 227–228.

Questions:

1. What is the result of lack of harmonious relations?
2. What does the human family lack?

3. Why **this household is not well arranged**?
4. Do legislated laws alone ensure happiness?

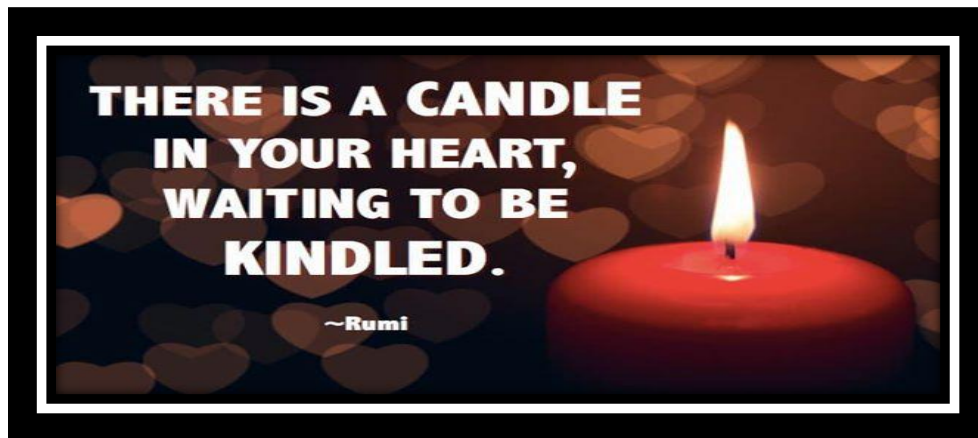
**“Economic plans of reconstruction have been carefully devised, and meticulously executed. And yet crisis has succeeded crisis, and the rapidity with which a perilously unstable world is declining has been correspondingly accelerated. A yawning gulf threatens to involve in one common disaster both the satisfied and dissatisfied nations, democracies and dictatorships, capitalists and wage-earners, Europeans and Asiatics, Jew and Gentile, white and coloured.”**

-Shoghi Effendi: The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, p.190.

Questions:

1. What has happened in spite of carefully devised and meticulously executed economic plans?
2. Who will be involved in one common disaster?
3. What threatens to involve people in one common disaster?
4. Can you think of any economic plan that was devised but failed?
5. Name a few economic crises of our century.
6. Do you think economic problems can only be found in developing countries?
7. Can you name a few economic problems that industrial countries face or have faced?

### *Famous quotes:*



### *Upcoming Events:*

**Coming feast: Masá'il (Questions), 10 December at 7 PM on Zoom**  
**Next feast: Sharaf (Honour), 30 December**

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