

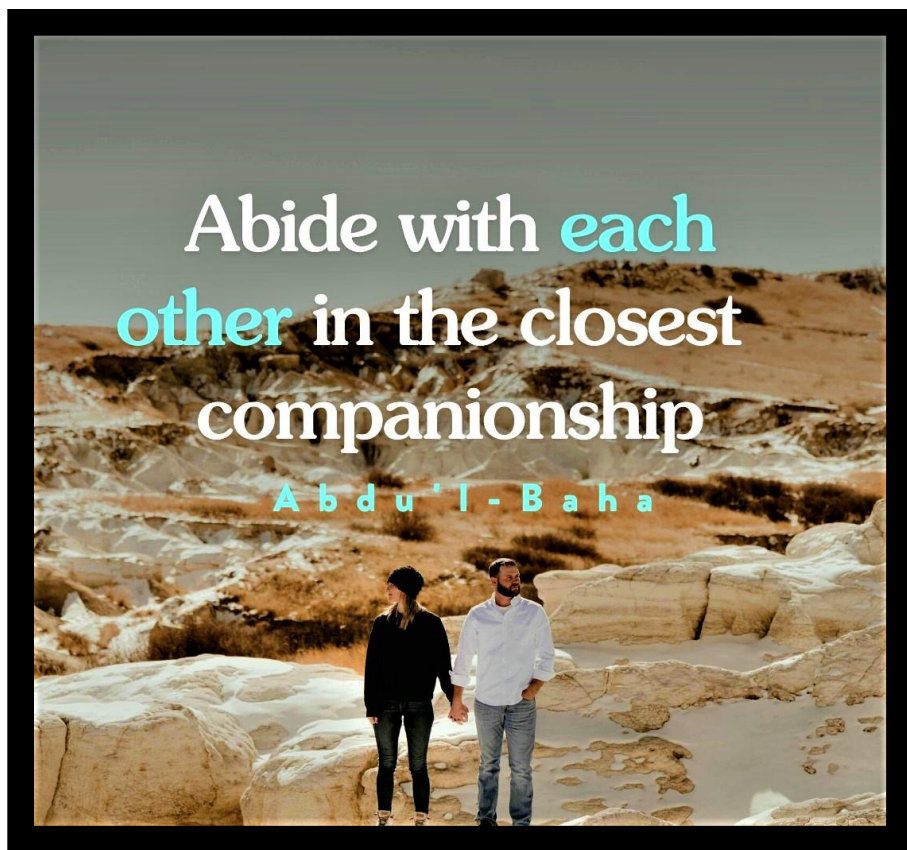


# Port Alberni Nuggets

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## Baha'i Quote of the Month



## Baha'i Stories:

*This beautiful story of 'Abdu'l-Bahá which is an example of the relation of the soul of man in this world to the next world, or eternal life. It is the story of a stranger who arrives in a strange city and finds all of its inhabitants gathered in the market square looking anxiously up at the sky. He inquires the reason for this from a man standing nearby and is told: "It is the custom in this city that, once a year, a bird comes out of the sky, circles about and alights on the head of one of the men and this man then becomes the*

king for a year.” The stranger looks up and soon sees a bird appear which circles and then alights on his own head. At this point all the people acclaim him as their King and carry him off to the palace.

The man who had given the information said to the new King. “Since it was I who told you about our custom and now you have been chosen King, make me your Prime Minister.” The King agrees to this. As the Prime Minister watches him and finds he is a just and good man, doing his duty to his subjects, he comes to the King one day and said: “Come with me, I have something to show you” and takes him down to the seaside. There, far out, the King sees a desert island where an old and miserable man, naked and starving, is crying out and begging for help. The King asks who this wretched creature is and the Minister answers: “That is our King of last year. At the end of the year we take our old King and throw him away on an island. This is our custom.”

The King is distressed and bemoans his fate and says that he never chose to be King and doesn't want to end in such a terrible condition and terrible place. The wise Minister then tells him: “Now, while you are King, you have the power, you have the money, you have the men to obey you; so choose an island and bring your people and cultivate your island. Dig wells for water and build yourself a palace there. Then when the day comes for you to be cast off, you will go from one palace to another and be even better off than you were before.” The King heeds him and does this.

‘Abdu’l-Baha uses this beautiful example to teach us that each one of us, when born into this world is like a king, and has power and means of building a future palace, a shelter against the day one leaves this earthly kingdom and goes to the heavenly kingdom. With deeds and virtues developed in this world, each man builds his heavenly home and prepares for his eternal future. - Ruhiyih Khanum, (THE GREAT SAFARI)

## News and Events:

### **News from our twin community of Jaipur, India**

Here are pictures of a sample of some of the activities in Jaipur and surrounding areas.

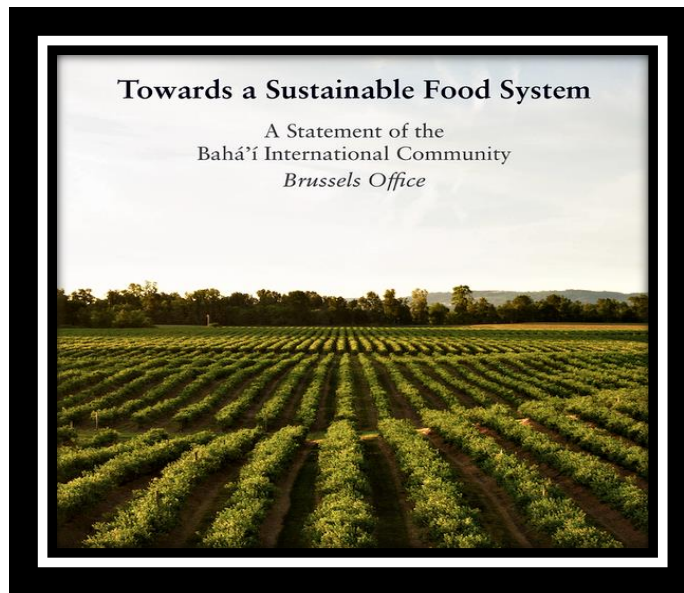






## Bahá'í World News Service

### Exploring agricultural policies in light of the oneness of humanity



*BIC BRUSSELS — The Brussels Office of the Bahá'í International Community (BIC) has released a statement titled Towards a Sustainable Food System, which explores the implications of the principle of the oneness of humanity for improving global food security.*

*The BIC presented its statement to the Ministers of Agriculture at the European Union (E.U.) who had gathered in the Czech Republic to discuss policies relating to food production and distribution.*

*The discussions at that gathering, reads the statement, “provide a timely opportunity for the discourse to... address systemic challenges,” highlighting the need for analysis to account for the broader impact of E.U. agricultural policies not just in Europe, but throughout the world.*

*The BIC proposes, in its statement, that widening participation in decision-making processes “must be understood not merely as negotiation aimed at producing a tolerable consensus, but as a collective*

*investigation into what sustainable food systems entail, in which all meaningfully engage and to which all contribute.”*

*This approach has formed the basis of the BIC’s own contribution to the discourse on food security, as the three BIC Offices in Addis Ababa, Brussels, and Geneva periodically bring together officials, diverse social actors, and civil society organizations in Europe and Africa—where E.U. policies have notable impact—for a collective exploration of pressing issues.*

*Recent discussions held by the BIC have examined topics such as the relationship between agricultural policies, rural sustainability, and the causes of migration. These conversations are showing that when issues are explored in light of the principle of oneness, participants are better able to consider the impact of their decisions and actions not only on their own surroundings but on the whole of humanity.*

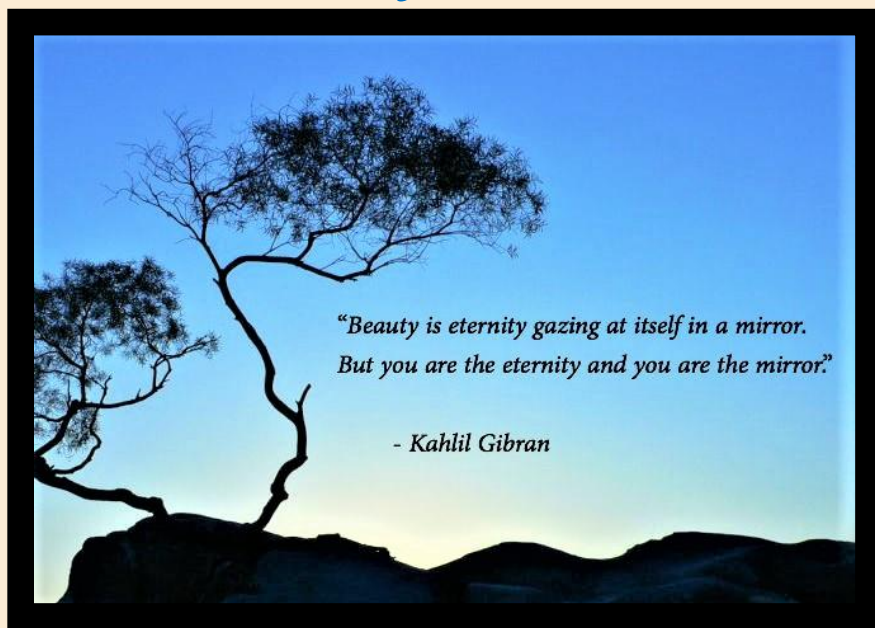
*Other efforts of the BIC in this area include a statement titled *The First Active Agent in Human Society: Putting Farmers at the Heart of Food Security Policy*, exploring how knowledge generated about food production by farmers and communities at the local level can inform international policies on food and agriculture.*

*Rachel Bayani of the Brussels Office says: “The world is in need of a food system that is sustainable, non-exploitative, and provides for all of humanity. No single actor and no single continent currently possess all the insights that would allow for a food system to be placed on a solid foundation.*

*“What we need is a collective inquiry and learning process where peoples from all regions of the world, from researchers to farmers, think about this challenge together and are connected to discussions where meaningful decisions are being made about food systems.”*

*The Brussels Office will be hosting a number of events in the coming months to explore the new statement further with social actors and officials concerned with the question of food security.*

## *Sharing:* *Poem of the month*





## News and Nuggets from our First Nations and other communities



### **‘We’re all human beings’: Community works to move beyond vandalized landmark**



#### **Port Alberni, BC**

*In a small city that can be seen as a microcosm of Canada’s movement towards reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, Port Alberni’s residents poured onto its streets Sept. 30, clad in orange to mark the day of recognition.*

*But during the evening of the second annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a collective spirit of understanding and support became tainted when an “Every Child Matters” slogan painted on a Port Alberni landmark was vandalized with a racist slur.*

*Just days earlier former students from the Alberni Indian Residential School and children currently attending Haahuupayak Elementary painted parts of the bridge across the Somass River, leading to the Tseshaht First Nation’s reserve. Sections of the structure are now orange, recognizing the colour worn to honour survivors of the assimilationist practices of the residential school system, complete with the slogan across the bridge’s roadside barrier.*

*Coincidentally, many locals still refer to the structure as “The Orange Bridge”, recalling its colour for decades before being painted grey in 1990.*

*Hundreds crossed the newly painted Orange Bridge on Sept. 30, reaching the nearby former site of the Alberni Indian Residential School for a gathering to complete the cross-city walk for reconciliation. But by 10 p.m. that evening Tseshaht Chief Councillor Ken Watts began hearing reports that the bridge slogan had been vandalized.*

*“Although this type of act does not come as a surprise to many, it is a sad reminder of the depth of work we, as a community and broader society, have in front of us to eliminate racism,” reads a statement*

*released by the First Nation the following day. “Our Nuu-chah-nulth teaching of ḥačatakin čawaak reminds us that everything is one and all is connected.”*

*As a child, Wally Samuel attended AIRS. The Ahousaht elder took part in painting the bridge orange before the national day of recognition.*

*“It’s sad that somebody vandalized that, we’re not blaming any race or anything, it’s just some idiot individuals,” said Samuel, noting that Port Alberni has become a more accepting community than it was in the 1950s and ‘60s. “There’s still some idiots out there, but it’s up to us to educate them and still act respectfully.”*

*The Port Alberni RCMP are investigating the vandalism and ask the public for any information about the culprits.*

*“Senseless acts such as this are unacceptable and troubling to our community, and revert the efforts towards truth and reconciliation,” stated Const. Richard Johns, RCMP media relations officer. “Although this crime was not reported to our detachment officers are actively investigating any available leads.”*

*Over the weekend the incident made national news, giving bad publicity to a city that has worked in recent years to overcome an intolerant past. A.W. Neill was Alberni’s MLA around the turn of the century, followed by being elected mayor in 1916 and serving as member of parliament for Comox-Alberni from 1921-1945. The long-time federal representative also served as an Indian Agent, enforcing the assimilationist laws of the Indian Act in the region, and advocated for the internment of Japanese-Canadians during the Second World War. Meanwhile on the west side of the Somass River, a residential school took in First Nations children from across coastal and central B.C. for nearly a century.*

*In a statement on her Facebook account, Port Alberni Mayor Sharie Minions condemned the vandal’s racist actions, emphasizing a need for the community to stick together.*

*“While we have made great strides, this act shows how much work there still is to do within our community. Reconciliation, relationships, learning and understanding have never been more important,” wrote Minions.*

*Community members, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, came to the site to clean up the vandalism, and by the time the sun hit the Orange Bridge on Saturday the slogan was restored to its original state.*

*“Survivors felt it would be fitting to paint the bridge orange to symbolize resilience, hope for the future and to raise awareness of the impacts of residential schools so that the pain they’ve endured never happens again,” stated the Tseshaht.*

*“We’ve got to be ready to share our story,” said Samuel, noting that some of his schoolmates are still unable to cross the bridge. “They knew crossing that bridge meant heading to the residential school.”*

*Following a wave of investigations into burials at former residential school sites, the Tseshaht undertook radar scanning this summer for unmarked graves where AIRS once stood, the first phase being completed Sept. 23. Meanwhile the First Nation brought forward the idea of painting the bridge to their working group of residential school survivors, in an effort to ensure the children who attended the institution won’t soon be forgotten.*

*Costs for the project seemed quite high at first according to Watts, but things came together after some discussion and planning with the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Initially the idea was to paint the entire bridge, but with the Somass being a salmon bearing river, painting the bases around the bridge emerged as the safer compromise.*

*The ministry took their support a step further and donated the orange paint and roadside flaggers for the day.*

*“The ministry is grateful to have had the opportunity to partner with the Tseshaht First Nation and Mainroad Mid Island to add orange to the Orange Bridge as a way of honouring residential school survivors and all those who did not survive,” said Public Affairs Officer Gene Law on behalf of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.*

*With a little help from Tseshaht and the custom print shop Billybeauty to make the “Every Child Matters” sign, the job was done. This gives the community and tourists passing through a lasting reminder to remember the children taken from their families and sent to residential schools.*

*“Seeing survivors and children paint was amazing, it was a day that I’ll never forget,” said Watts.*

*For Wally Samuel, reconciliation means people from different backgrounds learning how to better understand each other and live together.*

*“It’s getting better because our kids are growing up with other nations,” he said, adding that reconciliation amongst First Nations is part of the movement as well. “We have to reconcile with everybody. We had a lot of tension between our own nations before, between families.”*

*“No matter what race you’re from, we’re all human beings, and we’ve got to work together to make a better, safer place for everybody,” added Samuel.*

## *From the editor’s desk:*

### **Understanding The Implications Of The Oneness of Mankind**

*I have always thought that I understood the significance of the oneness of humanity as a goal for humanity since, to me, the world’s survival depends on it. Moreover, as a Baha’i, I grew up hearing it all the time, so this was imprinted on my psyche.*

*Since I was interested and thought I had learned its meaning and implications, I read more and more of the writers, poets, philosophers and great thinkers who talked about this concept. I realized that their ideas were more of a slogan or a cliché. They were very inspiring, no doubt but without any practical suggestions for how to achieve it.*

*Recently I was reading about the nature of man and his purpose. I realized there was more to this than I had imagined. After some spiritual readings, I realized that the whole creation of our earth was made for man and his ultimate destiny, which was to achieve the unity of humankind or establish the Kingdom of God on earth. To live a life that God has desired us to live. That meant nurturing our spiritual nature and living as spiritual beings the way He intended us to live.*

***“The successive Founders of all past Religions Who, from time immemorial, have shed, with ever-increasing intensity, the splendor of one common Revelation at the various stages which have marked***



*the advance of mankind towards maturity may thus, in a sense, be regarded as preliminary Manifestations, anticipating and paving the way for the advent of that Day of Days when the whole earth will have fructified, and the tree of humanity will have yielded its destined fruit.” – Shoghi Effendi, The World Order of Bahá’u’lláh, p.166*

*Can you believe that from the inception of the universe, all these billions and millions of years, this has been the goal for mankind given by our Creator so that it is achieved? That is amazing.*

*After this realization, I tried to examine with new insight into the implication of this discovery and see what I missed that I have to relearn with all these years. This quotation enabled me to look at the details of God’s plan for us to work on. It clearly pinpoints the areas that we have to work to get there.*

*“Let there be no mistake. The principle of the Oneness of Mankind—the pivot round which all the teachings of Bahá’u’lláh revolve is no mere outburst of ignorant emotionalism or an expression of vague and pious hope. Its appeal is not to be merely identified with a reawakening of the spirit of brotherhood and good-will among men, nor does it aim solely at the fostering of harmonious cooperation among individual peoples and nations. Its implications are deeper, its claims greater than any which the Prophets of old were allowed to advance. Its message is applicable not only to the individual, but concerns itself primarily with the nature of those essential relationships that must bind all the states and nations as members of one human family. It does not constitute merely the enunciation of an ideal, but stands inseparably associated with an institution adequate to embody its truth, demonstrate its validity, and perpetuate its influence. It implies an organic change in the structure of present-day society, a change such as the world has not yet experienced... It calls for no less than the reconstruction and the demilitarization of the whole civilized world—a world organically unified in all the essential aspects of its life, its political machinery, its spiritual aspiration, its trade and finance, its script and language, and yet infinite in the diversity of the national characteristics of its federated units.” – Shoghi Effendi, The World Order of Bahá’u’lláh, p.43*

*There is no doubt in my mind that the unity of mankind is inevitable. The question of how and where the changes have to happen to achieve it has to be answered. I try to share my understanding of the whole concept. To create a world that is “**Organically unified in all the essential aspects of its life**” there has to be a fundamental transformation in all areas of life.*

*You may ask how it can be done. I have simplified the whole concept for me, and the practical way of doing it is to introduce spirituality and humanity into every aspect of life. For me, there are two ways of working towards this goal. First internal is working on learning more, meditating more, purifying my life and becoming more spiritual each day. Second external, I offer whatever I have learned spiritually or I have gained and then look for any opportunity I get to contribute to all my life’s activities. In this small way, I try to play my part. We all have a part to play. This contribution could be in the form of a word or action..*

*I picked these below headings directly from the quote that indicate a few areas that must be thoroughly re-examined and infused with the new spirit.*

- The reawakening of the spirit of brotherhood and good-will among men*
- Harmonious cooperation*
- The relationships that must bind the nations as members of one family*
- An organic change in the structure of present-day society*
- The reconstruction and the demilitarization of the whole civilized world*
- A world organically unified in all the essential aspects of its life:*

*its political machinery*



*its spiritual aspiration  
its script and language  
its trade and finance*

*I will discuss one of them here:*

### ***Trade and finance are parts of the economic system***

*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. It is time to re-examine the fundamental assumptions that this system was built on and replace them with humane, moral and spiritual ones. A shift in thinking is needed. By introducing spirituality into our economic activities, we can take 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.*

*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 dream of a better world and are ready to make sure that it is established. No great achievement can take place without a goal or dream. Without them, the ever-advancing civilization would not have progressed from the Stone Age to where we are now.*

*How privileged are we to live in a time that the goal of the oneness of mankind is getting closer even though we have to deal with the chaos and confusion related to the coming event of the birth of Baha'u'llah's World Order? We have all the tools and the blueprint for the unity of humankind, and as people are getting closer in physical connection and the degree of separation of humanity reduced, the challenge now is to bring the hearts and minds of the people closer through spirituality.*

### **Famous quotes:**

**You came Here Empty Handed And  
you Will Leave Empty Handed.  
What is yours today Belonged to  
someone else yesterday And Will  
Belong To Someone Else  
Tommorrow.  
So Dont Think Much!!!**

**BHAGAVAD GITA**



## Upcoming Events:

**Birth of the Bab, October 26, 2022**

**Birth of Baha'u'llah, October 27, 2022**

**Next feast, Qudrat/Power, November 4, 2022**

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