



Port Alberni Nuggets

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Baha'i Quote of the Month



Baha'i Stories:

Business

Haji Muhammad-Baqir was a well-known merchant, foremost among the believers in faith, certitude and enthusiasm, and was serving the Cause with devotion and self-sacrifice. This man attained the presence of Bahá'u'lláh in Baghdad. There He wrote a letter to Him and begged for wealth and prosperity. In answer, this exalted and wonderful Tablet was revealed for him. In it Bahá'u'lláh stated that his request would be granted and that the doors of prosperity and wealth would be opened for him from every direction. He warned him, however, to be on his guard and not to allow riches to become a barrier and make him heedless. Now you are here to attain the presence of Bahá'u'lláh and

in the future you will witness that this man will be overtaken with fear to such an extent that he will renounce God and His Cause. Not long after, he will make substantial losses, following which he will write a letter to Bahá'u'lláh and repent. God will then turn his losses into profit and he will become again highly successful in his business and will emerge as the foremost merchant in Constantinople and Tabriz. However, this time he will wax prouder than before, more heedless and deprived... This time he will lose all his possessions, will be unable to continue trading and will become helpless in arranging his affairs. It is then that he will repent and return, and will be content to live as a poor man. He will spend the days of his life in the service of the Cause of God. His end will be blessed and he will receive great confirmations from God.' He then said to me: 'Remember all these things, for they will come to pass, and you shall witness them.' -Adib Taherzadeh, Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh, v2, p. 277-278

News and Events:

News from our twin community of Jaipur, India

Activities such as J.Y. groups, children's classes, prayer meetings and devotionals are ongoing in every imaginable location.



Chile temple: Promoting a harmonious relationship with the natural world



SANTIAGO, Chile — The site of the Bahá'í House of Worship in Santiago, Chile, was recently host to a gathering that marked a significant milestone in a conservation project aimed at safeguarding the diverse ecosystems in the Andes Mountains.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Mountain Project, which was initiated six years ago, has engaged the public and private sectors to protect the natural environment and cultural heritage of the Santiago Metropolitan and Valparaíso regions, including in Peñalolén, where the temple is situated.

Carolina Leitao Alvarez, the mayor of Peñalolén, expressed her appreciation for the role the temple has played in promoting environmental stewardship in the region since its inauguration. “These grounds have a special meaning because... the efforts [of the Bahá'í community] to restore these foothills has been very important,” she said.

Maximiliano Cox Larrain, a representative of the GEF project, spoke about the steps taken to reforest and conserve the flora and fauna on the temple site, saying: “By using native plants, minimizing visual obstructions, and engaging in ecological restoration, the design and landscaping of the gardens create a tranquil space in which the city finds silence, and visitors can connect with nature. This connection inspires meaningful conversations and invites you to approach the temple in a state of meditation and reflection.”

Other attendees included the Undersecretary of the Ministry of the Environment, as well as representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme, the GEF Mountain Project, and civil society organizations

Veronica Oré, the director of the House of Worship, explained in her remarks that beyond conservation efforts on the site, the Bahá'í community has sought to further support the project by creating spaces for conversations that explore a holistic vision of progress grounded in spiritual principles such as the oneness of humanity.

“The planet, its peoples, and its creatures have suffered greatly from a materialistic mindset that views the individual as purely economic and a self-interested unit, competing with others to accumulate an ever-increasing share of the world’s material resources,” she said.

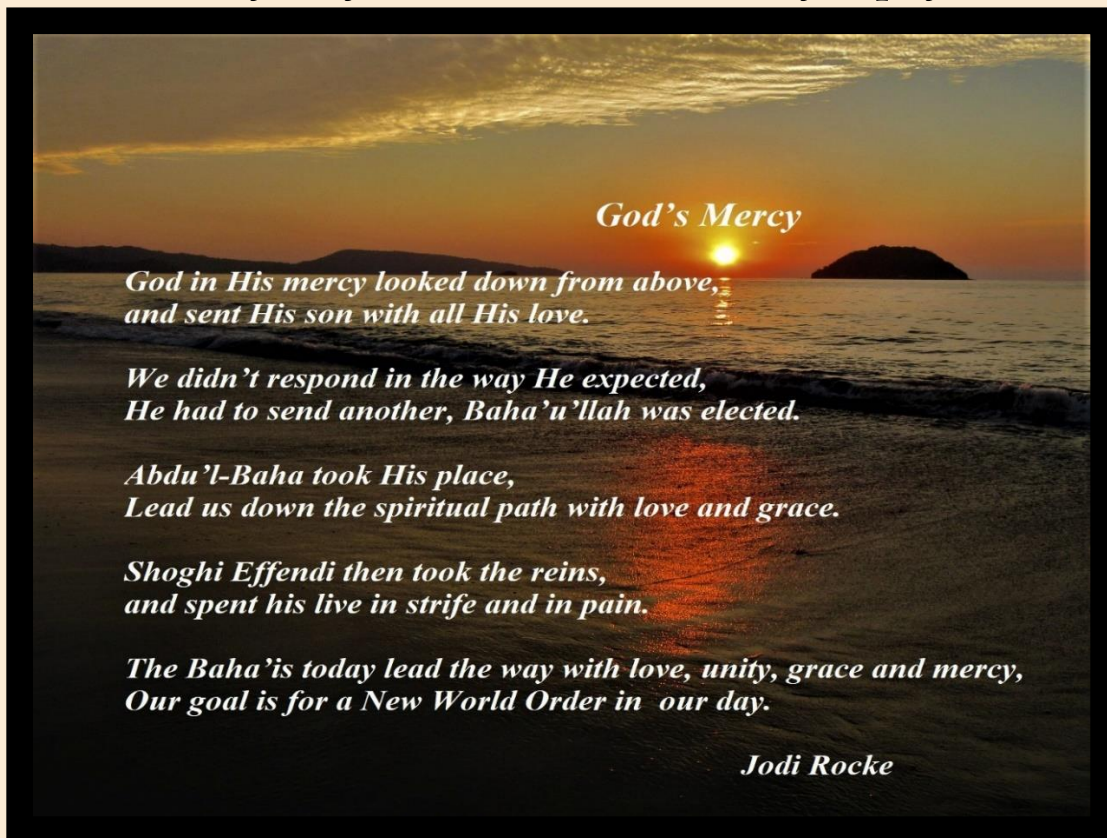
Mrs. Oré explained that by viewing progress through the lens of the oneness of humanity, one can see with greater clarity that true prosperity must include the flourishing of all people and the planet that we all share. This suggests that material progress alone is not enough, and that true progress must also include the spiritual and moral development of individuals and society.

Reflecting on the event, Luis Sandoval, a member of Chile’s Bahá'í Office of External Affairs, says that the House of Worship has played an important part in inspiring this vision, “catalyzing people’s reorientation toward their spiritual nature.”

The Bahá'í temple, says Mr. Sandoval, “has acted as a point of attraction for those seeking to work for the renewal of society.”

Poem of the month

Poem by Jodi from Port Alberni, who needs your prayers.



From the pages of history

The Bab's parting words to Mulla Husayn

To Mulla Husayn, as the hour of his departure approached, the Bab addressed these words: "Grieve not that you have not been chosen to accompany Me on My pilgrimage to Hijaz. I shall, instead, direct your steps to that city which enshrines a Mystery of such transcendent holiness as neither Hijaz nor Shiraz can hope to rival. My hope is that you may, by the aid of God, be enabled to remove the veils from the eyes of the wayward and to cleanse the minds of the malevolent. Visit, on your way, Isfahan, Kashan, Tihran, and Khurasan. Proceed thence to Iraq, and there await the summons of your Lord, who will keep watch over you and will direct you to whatsoever is His will and desire. As to Myself, I shall, accompanied by Quddus and My Ethiopian servant, proceed on My pilgrimage to Hijaz. I shall join the company of the pilgrims of Fars, who will shortly be sailing for that land. I shall visit Mecca and Medina, and there fulfil the mission with which God has entrusted Me. God willing, I shall return hither by the way of Kufih, in which place I hope to meet you. If it be decreed otherwise, I shall ask you to join Me in Shiraz. The hosts of the invisible Kingdom, be assured, will sustain and reinforce your efforts. The essence of power is now dwelling in you, and the company of His chosen angels revolves around you. His almighty arms will surround you, and His unfailing Spirit will ever continue to guide your steps. He that loves you, loves God; and whoever opposes you, has opposed God. Whoso befriends you, him will God befriend; and whoso rejects you, him will God reject." -THE DAWN-BREAKERS & NABIL'S NARRATIVE

News and Nuggets from other communities



SERVING THE ONE IN ALL
SIKH DHARMA
INTERNATIONAL

Siri Guru Granth Sahib (The holy book of the Sikh religion)



In its earthly form, the Siri Guru Granth Sahib is 1430 pages of sacred teachings and songs. There are a total of 36 contributors to the Siri Guru Granth Sahib. In addition to 6 of the Sikh Gurus, there are compositions from 30 saints from different religions, places and times. These songs are set to 60 different musical scales, called Raags (Sikher / SikhiWiki). Raags are very particular musical scales. Different Raags are meant to be sung at different times of day or at different seasons.

The spiritual technology for awakening yourself to your Inner Divinity in Sikh Dharma is to pronounce and sing the songs from the Siri Guru Granth Sahib. It is especially powerful to sing them in the Raags in which they are given. But singing or chanting them, in Raag or not, will have a profound healing effect on your body, communication and mind.

The late Siri Singh Sahib, Yogi Bhajan explained the power of the Raags this way:

“The power and projection of the sound current in the Shabads of Siri Guru Granth Sahib are in Raagas. These Raagas are a methodology of harmonies, they are the play of the life force. The blessings of the Siri Guru Granth Sahib nurtures the trees, humans, bees and birds, demons and angels alike.”

“Once the honeybees sat on a branch to create honey. A tape of Gurbani was played at a distance constantly. That beehive gave three times the honey of the other hives.”

From the time of Guru Nanak to the time of Guru Gobind Singh, each Sikh Master taught that a person’s own spiritual progress rests within him or herself. A teacher can show us the way. But it is up to each person to walk the path or not. The sacred songs of the Shabad Guru embodied in the Siri Guru Granth Sahib are the key to one’s own self-awakening. When a person, with his or her own lips, tongue and breath, sings the songs of the Enlightened Masters, it begins a chemical chain reaction in the brain. The singing repatterns the neuro-net so that eventually, in time, the student can perceive directly what the Masters spoke about. Then there is Union between the Sikh and the Guru.

“When children sleep at night with a lullaby of Guru Ram Das playing, they become fresh and energetic. There is a beauty in the Siri Guru Granth Sahib with music that gives us excellence and wisdom as vast as the infinity.”

(From Sri Guru Granth Sahib Darshan by Bibiji Inderjit Kaur Khalsa, Ph.D. Page 13)

From the editor’s desk:

Delayed Gratification a Path to the Next World

Life has gradually taught me the benefits and the joy of delaying gratification. Why put off enjoying the immediate rewards for my efforts? Allow me to explain.

*Delayed gratification didn't come naturally to me. I had to learn it by trial and error. Suppose you're not familiar with the concept. In that case, delayed gratification refers to the ability to put off something mildly fun or pleasurable now and gain something even more fun, pleasurable, or rewarding later. For example, you could relax and watch T.V. the night before an exam. You could practice delayed gratification and study for the exam—waiting to relax only after the exam is over. Some say the discipline of delayed gratification creates real success in life: **The ability to discipline yourself to delay***

gratification in the short term to enjoy greater rewards in the long term, is the indispensable prerequisite for success. – Brian Tracy

Everyone wants to enjoy the rewards of their efforts, and there is nothing wrong with that. When we want instant gratification, the problem arises, rewarding ourselves right after half of the work is done and often before the job is finished. In extreme cases, one rewards oneself even before the work begins!

This kind of instant gratification indicates a lack of self-discipline and self-control, an absence of purpose in one's life and the inability to set goals and see them through. It also sets up a self-defeating pattern: if we reward ourselves before finishing a task, we train ourselves not to complete it.

Those who practice delayed gratification demonstrate a clear purpose in life and the need to accomplish worthwhile goals. Delayed gratification means accepting the awareness of life's journey as a long one and planning it.

So, as I was thinking about how much I enjoy my quality time after doing everything on my to-do list for the day, I had an "a-ha!" moment: I realized that our lives, with all their complications, present us with a massive exercise in delayed gratification.

Our comfort and progress in the next world depend on sacrificing many human desires. To progress spiritually, we must value our own will less than the will of our Creator. That way, we can enjoy our journey, fully aware that we've delayed receiving the rewards of this physical world for the next one. This process, in my estimation, represents the greatest delayed gratification one can imagine.

The Baha'i teachings remind us about our purpose for preparing for the next world:
“Therefore in this world, he must prepare himself for life beyond. That which he needs in the world of the Kingdom must be obtained here. Just as he prepared himself in the world of the matrix by acquiring forces necessary in this sphere of existence, so likewise the indispensable forces of the divine existence must be potentially attained in this world.” – Abdu'l-Baha

We spend our lives doing things in this material world, hoping for the rewards they will generate. We sacrifice mental and physical energy to earn money so that we can acquire the things we need and want—but some of us spend it without much thought for the future. Only a small percentage of people save money to accumulate until they can exchange it for the things they desire the most.

In the same way, no reward or gratification is more magnificent than entering the next world with a clear conscience, knowing that we have exerted our spiritual energies to the service of humanity and spiritual growth.

Famous quotes:



Upcoming Events:

Next feast, , Mulk/Dominion, February 8, 2023

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