



## Port Alberni Nuggets

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### Baha'i Quote of the Month



### Baha'i Stories:

#### Self

*Shoghi Effendi was a very remarkable young man, and of course, he just worshipped 'Abdu'l-Bahá. And when 'Abdu'l-Bahá passed away, the whole world became dark for him. All light had gone out. When he*

returned to the Holy Land, he had in mind from the things which ‘Abdu’l-Bahá had said to him, (and I am now telling you what he said), “that I had in mind that ‘Abdu’l-Bahá would give me the honor of calling the great conclave, calling together the great conclave which would elect the Universal House of Justice. And I had thought in His Will and Testament, that that probably was what He was instructing to be done.” But, he said, “Instead of that, I found that I had been appointed as the Guardian of the Cause of God,” and he said, “I didn’t want to be the Guardian of the Cause. In the first place, I didn’t think I was worthy. The next days, I didn’t want to face these responsibilities. I think he talked one night along these lines when you were there, John, I’m not sure, but he went into this on other times, too, in great detail. He said, “I didn’t want to be the Guardian. I knew what it meant. I knew that my life as a human being was over. I didn’t want it, and I didn’t want to face it, so as you remember, I left, remember, I left the Holy Land, and I went up in the mountains of Switzerland, and I fought with myself until I conquered myself. Then I came back and I turned myself over to God, and I was the Guardian. Now,” he said, “every Bahá’í in the world, every person in the world, has to do the exactly the same thing, whether you’re a Hand of the Cause, or whether you’re a Knight of Bahá’u’lláh, or whether you’re a member of a National Assembly, whether you’re a teacher, whether you’re a pioneer, whether you’re an administrator, or whatever you are in the Cause, every Bahá’í must fight with himself and conquer himself. And when he’s conquered himself, then he becomes a true instrument for service to the Cause of God. And not until that. And he won’t achieve his great success until he has done it, and this is what every Bahá’í in the world should know. -In the Days of the Guardian: A Talk by Hand of the Cause of God Leroy Ioas in Johannesburg

## News and Events:

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

*On the occasion of Independence Day, Bahai community members planted many trees in Gulistan (Baha’i cemetery), where children, youth, women and veterans all participated enthusiastically. There have been many junior youth groups, ruhi study groups, children's classes, and devotional and prayer meetings in different parts of Rajasthan. The Machadi cluster has been opened, and the people of the village have been given the message of the Faith.*



## The Bahá'í World News Service

### DRC House of Worship: Peaceful environs inspire thoughtful discussion on the environment



**KINSHASA, Democratic Republic Of The Congo** — *Within the serene setting of the Bahá'í House of Worship in Kinshasa, a vibrant discussion on humanity's relationship with the natural world unfolded.*

*A gathering organized by the Bahá'í Office of External Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo marked a special moment at the national level when government representatives, academics, civil society organizations, representatives of faith communities, and traditional leaders from throughout the country sat together to discuss environmental issues.*

*Christian Lupemba, a member of the Office of External Affairs, emphasized the importance of fostering a shared vision among these social actors. "Given the complexities of environmental issues," he said, "no single entity can tackle these challenges alone. If we put our minds together, we can reach more effective solutions."*

*Discussions drew inspiration from the Bahá'í International Community's statement *One Planet, One Habitation: A Bahá'í Perspective on Recasting Humanity's Relationship with the Natural World*. Some of the themes highlighted in the BIC statement and explored by participants included the essential principle of humanity's oneness as the foundation on which a sustainable society can be built and how*

*to foster consensus in action through consultation, particularly in relation to increasing the participation of women in decision-making forums.*

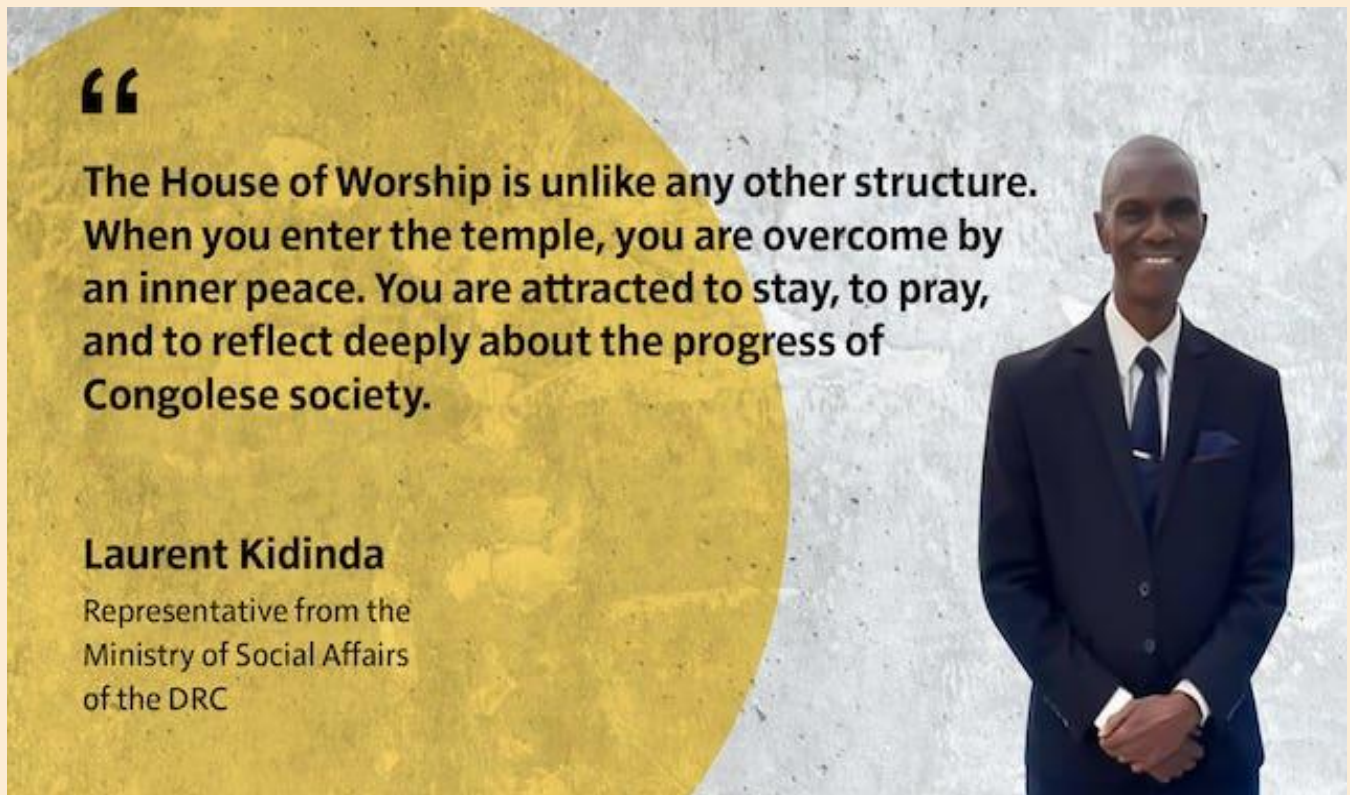
*Faïda Chantal, a prominent social actor, spoke about barriers that prevent women from greater involvement in discussions concerning the environment. “We must ensure that women have equal access to the same information and opportunities as men,” she said, citing this as one of the reasons that women can be absent from decision-making forums.*

*Ms. Chantal further noted that the “cultural, institutional, and economic obstacles that women face” are in fact obstacles that prevent the progress of society.*

*Attendees expressed their appreciation for the gathering, noting that the environs of the temple provided a setting conducive to contemplation and an atmosphere that inspired rich discussion and deep interaction.*

*Laurent Kidinda, a representative from the Ministry of Social Affairs stated: “The House of Worship is unlike any other structure. When you enter the temple, you are overcome by an inner peace. You are attracted to stay, to pray, and to reflect deeply about the progress of Congolese society.”*

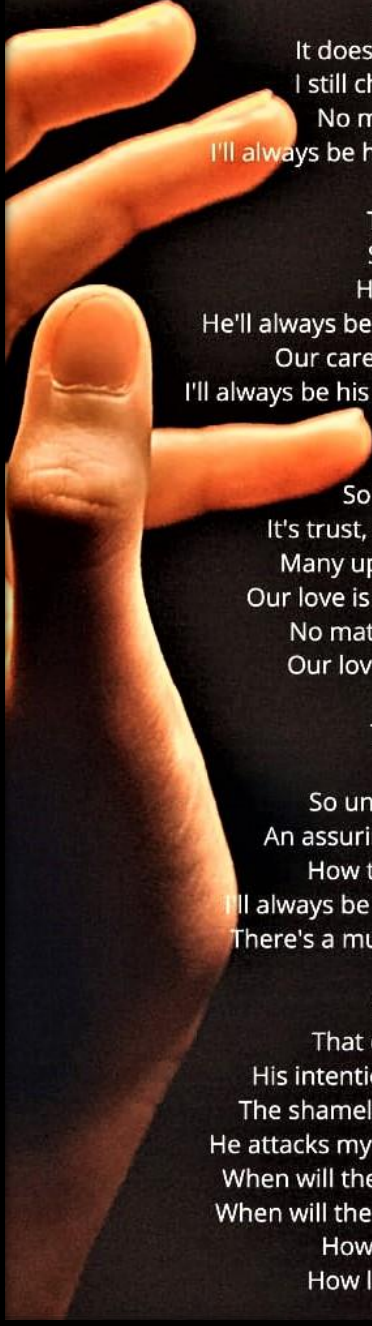
*This gathering was the first in a series of discussions planned by the Office of External Affairs to take place on the grounds of the newly inaugurated temple to explore issues of national concern.*



## Poem of the month:

By Tahera

### TOUCH



The touch of my father  
So gentle , so sweet  
His kiss on my forehead  
His caress on my cheek  
It doesn't matter how old I may grow  
I still cherish his touch wherever I go.  
No matter how many miles apart  
I'll always be his daughter, the princess of his heart.

The touch of my brother  
So protecting , so strong  
His hugs and pats say it all  
He'll always be there, no matter how much we brawl.  
Our care for each other will never cease  
I'll always be his sister and our love will never decrease.

The touch of my lover  
So intoxicating , so profound  
It's trust, it's faith , it has our souls bound.  
Many up's and down's in life we'll share  
Our love is to be nurtured everyday with care  
No matter how many turns and twists  
Our love is eternal , it will always exist.

The touch of my friends  
So secure and safe  
So understanding and full of grace  
An assuring hand shake, a nod that knows  
How to make me smile in my woes  
I'll always be his friend and he'll stand by my side  
There's a mutual respect within which we abide.

The touch of a stranger  
That can touch even through eyes  
His intentions so disgusting, his laugh so vile  
The shameless hunger that makes him a beast  
He attacks my essence with his wildness unleashed  
When will these soul less creatures be punished ?  
When will their touch be reviled and admonished ?  
How long will justice be denied ?  
How long will my pride be defiled ?

## *From the pages of history*

### **Return of the Bab to Shiraz**

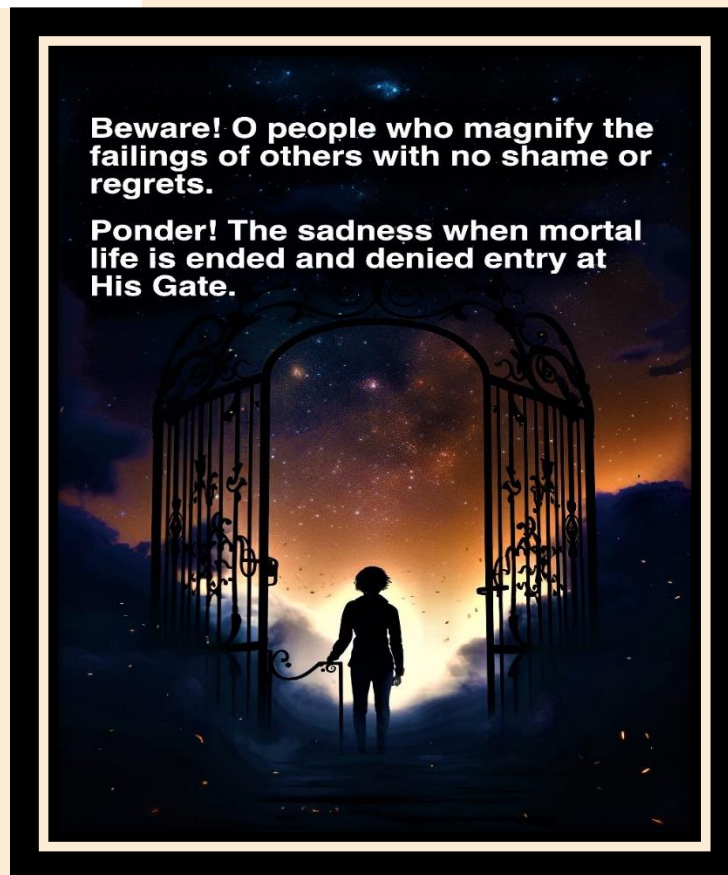
*The Bab straightway resumed His journey to Shiraz. Free and unfettered, He went before His escort, which followed Him in an attitude of respectful devotion. By the magic of His words, He had disarmed the hostility of His guards and transmuted their proud arrogance into humility and love. Reaching the city, they proceeded directly to the seat of the government. Whosoever observed the cavalcade marching through the streets could not help but marvel at this most unusual spectacle. Immediately Husayn Khan was informed of the arrival of the Bab, he summoned Him to his presence. He received Him with the utmost insolence and bade Him occupy a seat facing him in the centre of the room. He publicly rebuked Him, and in abusive language denounced His conduct. "Do you realise," he angrily protested, "what a great mischief you have kindled? Are you aware what a disgrace you have become to the holy Faith of Islam and to the august person of our sovereign? Are you not the man who claims to be the author of a new revelation which annuls the sacred precepts of the Qur'an?" The Bab calmly replied: "If any bad man come unto you with news, clear up the matter at once, lest through ignorance ye harm others, and be speedily constrained to repent of what ye have done."<sup>(L)</sup> These words inflamed the wrath of Husayn Khan. "What!" he exclaimed. "Dare you ascribe to us evil, ignorance, and folly?" Turning to his attendant, he bade him strike the Bab in the face. So violent was the blow, that the Bab's turban fell to the ground. Shaykh Abu-Turab, the Imam-Jum'ih of Shiraz, who was present at that meeting and who strongly disapproved of the conduct of Husayn Khan, ordered that the Bab's turban be replaced upon His head, and invited Him to be seated by his side. Turning to the governor, the Imam-Jum'ih explained to him the circumstances connected with the revelation of the verse of the Qur'an which the Bab had quoted, and sought by this means to calm his fury. "This verse which this youth has quoted," he told him, "has made a profound impression upon me. The wise course, I feel, is to enquire into this matter with great care, and to judge him according to the precepts of the holy Book." Husayn Khan readily consented; whereupon Shaykh Abu-Turab questioned the Bab regarding the nature and character of His Revelation. The Bab denied the claim of being either the representative of the promised Qa'im or the intermediary between Him and the faithful. "We are completely satisfied," replied the Imam-Jum'ih; "we shall request you to present yourself on Friday in the Masjid-i-Vakil, and to proclaim publicly your denial." As Shaykh Abu-Turab arose to depart in the hope of terminating the proceedings, Husayn Khan intervened and said: "We shall require a person of recognised standing to give bail and surety for him, and to pledge his word in writing that if ever in future this youth should attempt by word or deed to prejudice the interests either of the Faith of Islam or of the government of this land, he would straightway deliver him into our hands, and regard himself under all circumstances responsible for his behaviour." Haji Mirza Siyyid Ali, the Bab's maternal uncle, who was present at that meeting, consented to act as the sponsor of his Nephew. In his own handwriting he wrote the pledge, affixed to it his seal, confirmed it by the signature of a number of witnesses, and delivered it to the governor; whereupon Husayn Khan ordered that the Bab be entrusted to the care of His uncle, with the condition that at whatever time the governor should deem it advisable, Haji Mirza Siyyid Ali would at once deliver the Bab into his hands.*

*Haji Mirza Siyyid Ali, his heart filled with gratitude to God, conducted the Bab to His home and committed Him to the loving care of His revered mother. He rejoiced at this family reunion and was greatly relieved by the deliverance of his dear and precious Kinsman from the grasp of that malignant tyrant. In the quiet of His own home, the Bab led for a time a life of undisturbed retirement. No one except His wife, His mother, and His uncles had any intercourse with Him. Meanwhile the mischief-makers were busily pressing Shaykh Abu-Turab to summon the Bab to the Masjid-i-Vakil and to call upon Him to fulfil His pledge.*

*Shaykh Abu-Turab was known to be a man of kindly disposition, and of a temperament and nature which bore a striking resemblance to the character of the late Mirza Abu'l-Qasim, the Imam-Jum'ih of Tihiran. He was extremely reluctant to treat with contumely persons of recognised standing, particularly if these were residents of Shiraz. Instinctively he felt this to be his duty, observed it conscientiously, and was as a result universally esteemed by the people of that city. He therefore sought, through evasive answers and repeated postponements, to appease the indignation of the multitude. He found, however, that the stirrers-up of mischief and sedition were bending every effort further to inflame the feelings of general resentment which had seized the masses. He at length felt compelled to address a confidential message to Haji Mirza Siyyid Ali, requesting him to bring the Bab with him on Friday to the Masjid-i-Vakil, that He might fulfil the pledge He had given. "My hope," he added, "is that by the aid of God the statements of your nephew may ease the tenseness of the situation and may lead to your tranquillity as well as to our own."* -THE DAWN-BREAKERS & NABIL'S NARRATIVE

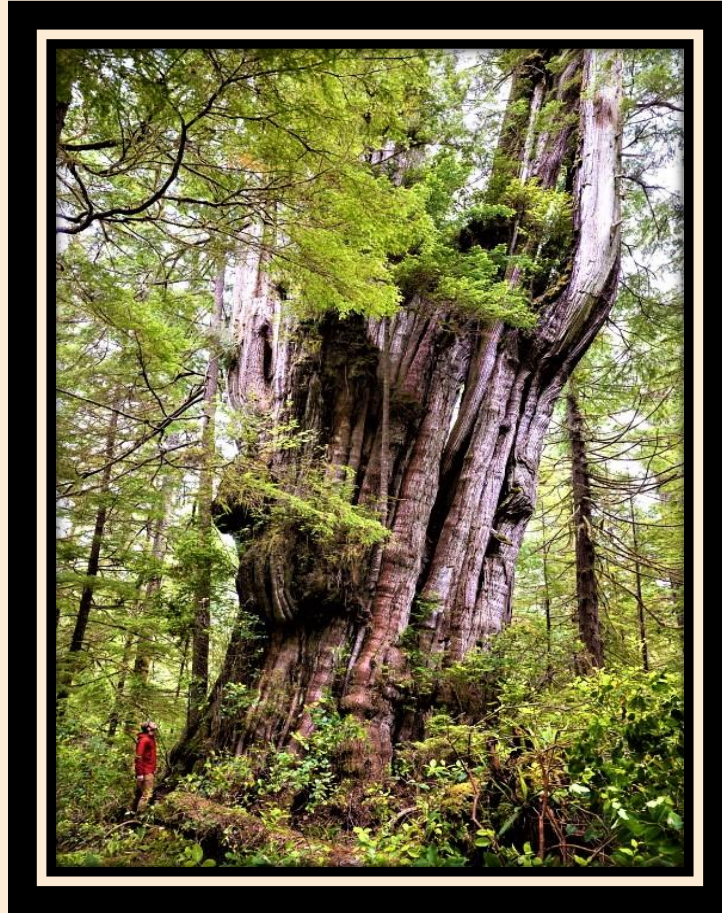
## Sharing

*Douglas's art with Badi's words:*



*News and Nuggets from Other Religions and Communities*

## Massive red cedar resembling rock wall discovered in Ahousaht territory



*Ancient Forest Alliance photographer TJ Watt and Ahousaht Hereditary Representative Tyson Atleo stand beside an ancient Western red cedar tree that may very well be the most impressive tree in Canada on Flores Island in Ahousaht territory. (TJ Watt/Ancient Forest Alliance photo)*

### **Ahousaht, BC**

*It was like nothing Ahousaht's Tyson Atleo had ever seen before.*

*Giving the illusion of a rock wall, a massive western red cedar tree in Ahousaht territory near Tofino in Clayoquot Sound has been named one of Canada's most impressive trees by conservationists on Vancouver Island.*

*Ancient Forest Alliance (AFA) photographer and campaigner TJ Watt identified the remotely located tree on Flores Island while exploring with a friend.*



*The huge tree measures more than 17 feet (five metres) wide near its base, and its trunk gets even wider going upwards more than dozens of meters. According to a press release from the AFA, the tree stands 151 feet (46 metres) tall and is assumed to be well over a thousand years old given its size.*

*According to the AFA, the tree could have the largest or near largest timber volume of any tree in Canada for about the first 50 feet of its trunk—the part you see and experience from the ground.*

*“After nearly two decades of photographing, exploring and searching for big trees in old-growth forests across B.C., no tree has blown me away more than this one,” said Watt in a press release. “It’s a literal wall of wood. Your brain can’t compute the scale when you stand below it. The first time I arrived, from a distance I thought it had to be two trees because of how wide the trunk and limbs are. It defies words. As an avid big tree hunter, it’s a highlight of my life to find something as spectacular as this.”*

*According to the BC Big Tree Registry, the tree would currently rank as the sixth largest known red cedar in the country. The registry’s largest red cedar is the Cheewaht Giant, which is located in Ditidaht territory southeast of Nitinaht Lake.*

*The record-sized tree on Flores Island has so far garnered the nickname ‘The Wall’, or ‘?iīhaq hūmiis’, meaning ‘big red cedar’ in the Nuu-chah-nulth language. It grows on unprotected Crown/public lands in the unceded territory of the Ahousaht First Nation.*

*No logging plans exist for the area and the Ahousaht First Nation’s Land Use Vision, currently in the late stages of negotiations with the B.C. government, includes the protection of the forest where this tree is found.*

*“It was unlike anything I had ever seen before,” said Ahousaht First Nation Hereditary Representative Tyson Atleo. “When TJ first contacted me to go visit the tree, I was assuming it was like many I had experienced across different territories on the Island including in Ahousaht - but this one was obviously quite special. It really does look like a rock wall when you’re hiking up towards it and then you actually realize it’s a tree. It’s just breathtaking.”*

*Old-growth forests are culturally significant to the Ahousaht people, Atleo said, because they provide the nation with everything they need to survive, from shelter to transportation to clothing.*

*“The forest provides for every aspect of our wellbeing in addition to being home to our food sources,” Atleo said. “Everything that we need to survive is there, and not only physical survival but it’s a place representative of natural law. So it’s also our place for spirituality, for learning everything we need to know about being good humans on this planet.”*

*The Ahousaht First Nation’s Land Use Vision calls for the protection of 80 per cent of Ahousaht territory through the creation of new Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs), encompassing most of the old-growth forests in their territory, to be legislated as Provincial Conservancies by the province.*

*“The 2017 Land Use Vision that we’re working on implementing builds off thousands of years of stewardship and more recently decade’s worth of efforts by some of our late leaders and current leaders,” Atleo Said. “Efforts that include stopping clear-cut harvesting in Ahousaht territories.”*

*Atleo said the large red cedar is currently within the boundaries of a tree farm license, and that the objective is to transition that tree farm license into new protected areas and a new forest tenure for Ahousaht.*

*The Ahousaht First Nation is keeping the location of the tree private at this time, but Atleo said they may take visitors there in the future.*

## *From the editor's desk*

### **Living in an Age of Miracles**

*We live in an age of miracles—and we don't even know it.*

*I've often wished I lived in the times of some of my heroes who participated in great historical events and fought beside them in their battles. How I admired and idealized them. How I would have wanted to be with them and help them in any way I could in their battles with ignorance and injustice, and by doing that, take part in an important event in human history.*

*Recently, though, I've become more focused on what is happening now. The news concentrates on negative events, but I try to see the positive side of our present day. As I continue doing that, I realize the wonders of our modern-day world are totally overlooked because of the negative slant prevalent in much of the news.*

*I found it fascinating as I searched more and observed with an investigating eye. I am from the generation that did not grow up with the many amazing gadgets that are so commonplace today, such as TVs, phones and the internet, so I see them not with a jaded eye but with a sense of wonderment. I don't take them for granted, so you can imagine why I call the present time an age of miracles.*

*After thinking about it, I realized how my heroes would have loved to experience the present, not just because of new inventions and discoveries, but rather to see how much closer we are to the promised day when humanity becomes united and establishes a new world commonwealth.*

*It may sound too optimistic to write about these things at a time when it looks as if the world is falling apart when numerous wars and conflicts rage—but as a follower of the Baha'i Faith, I believe these events, both positive and negative, are all part of a bigger plan:*

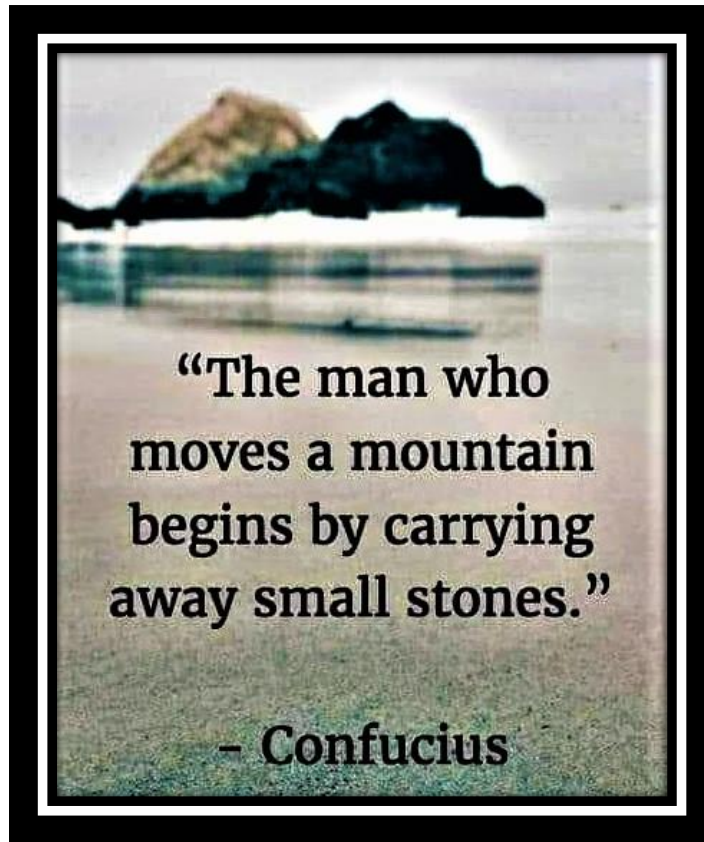
**The world's equilibrium hath been upset through the vibrating influence of this greatest, this new World Order. Mankind's ordered life hath been revolutionized through the agency of this unique, this wondrous System—the like of which mortal eyes have never witnessed. – Baha'u'llah**

*Look at it this way: to build your dream house, you have to dismantle the old, dilapidated one and start building a new, well-designed and beautiful structure. In the same way, the old order—with its failing theories, systems, and structures in the economic, political, education, health and other realms—can not satisfy the needs of the present generation of humanity. All of these upheavals are the signs of its malfunctioning and the sounds of its destruction. This doesn't signal the end of the world but signifies the coming of a beautiful new world. We are on the edge of these profound changes. Most people now agree that things are not working today and don't require convincing that we need a better system.*

*Now, we can endeavour towards a more unified, peaceful and loving future civilization and devote our energy to laying its foundation.*

*Who from the past generations would not want to witness the advent of a new age? We are witnessing the old structure crumbling down, and a new tool is invented every day. We have the blueprint of the new structure in hand and are preparing our equipment as we eagerly wait to start construction. We now have the design for that future structure—but first, humanity as a whole needs to join hands to participate in this venture because this new world belongs to every single person on Earth.*

### *Famous quotes:*



### *Holy Writings to Ponder and Practice*

*“One thing and only one thing will unfailingly and alone secure the undoubted triumph of this sacred Cause, namely, the extent to which our own inner life and private character mirror forth in their manifold aspects the splendour of those eternal principles proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh.” —Shoghi Effendi*

### *Upcoming Events:*

**Coming feast, Izzat/Might, September 8, 2023**

**Next feast, Mashiyat/Will, September 27, 2023**

Contact us at: [bshams@telus.net](mailto:bshams@telus.net)