



## Port Alberni Nuggets

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### Baha'i Quote of the Month



### Baha'i Stories:

#### Courage

*While in Paris, 'Abdu'l-Bahá received a letter warning Him that if He visited a certain country, He would be in danger. When He learned of this, He smilingly remarked to Lady Blomfield, 'My daughter, have you not yet realized that never, in my life, have I been for one day out of danger, and that I should rejoice to leave this world and go to my Father?' Lady Blomfield was 'overcome with sorrow and terror'. He continued, 'Be not troubled. These enemies have no power over my life, but that which is given them from on High. If my Beloved God so willed that my life-blood should be sacrificed in His path, it would be a glorious day, devoutly wished for by me.'* -Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

### News and Events:

## News From our Twin Community of Jaipur, India

*Here is a sample of activities in pictures of many junior youth groups, Ruhi study groups, children's classes, and devotional and prayer meetings in different parts of Rajasthan. The three-day security assistant board member's seminar started in Panchgani. 22 Auxiliary Board Members and three advisors from some states of North India were also present in this seminar.*



## The Bahá'í World News Service

### Houses of Worship: Officials Explore Social Cohesion at Chile Temple



**SANTIAGO, Chile** — *A recent gathering held at the Bahá'í House of Worship in Santiago brought together government officials, the Minister Secretary-General of the Presidency, members of Chile's*



*National Office of Religious Affairs, and representatives of the country's Bahá'í community to explore how religion can contribute to building a more cohesive society.*

*Discussions focused on the idea that service is integral to social progress. This concept represents the essence of Bahá'í Houses of Worship, where prayer and contemplation inspire service to society.*

*"We feel at home here," said Álvaro Elizalde Soto, the Minister Secretary-General of the Presidency. "The temple is marvelous and has been very well designed as a place for prayer and reflection."*

*Minister Elizalde Soto expressed his appreciation for the historic contributions of the Bahá'í community to Chile and conveyed his desire for fostering a more inclusive country.*

*Macarena Lobos, the Undersecretary of the Ministry General Secretariat of Government, emphasized that "constructive dialogue and collaboration with religious communities are essential for advancing toward a more prosperous society."*

*Verónica Oré, director of the Bahá'í House of Worship in Santiago, highlighted the pivotal role that the principle of the oneness of humanity plays in societal progress. "To apply this principle, many patterns and structures in our current social order will need to be reorganized to enable all people to participate in shaping an equitable and unified society."*

*Since its dedication in 2016, the House of Worship has become a focal point for profound discussions among various societal actors, exploring topics such as the extremes of wealth and poverty, equality between men and women, the protection of nature, and the economy.*



## Poem of the month:

By Tahera

### Bahá'u'lláh

He raised the call,  
And the chosen ones answered.

He unsealed the chalice of immortality,  
And the devoted ones drank their fill.

He revealed the treasures of His knowledge,  
And the precious ones gathered the hidden gems.

He poured down the rains of His bounty,  
And the favoured ones soaked their souls.

He shed the light of His love,  
And the beloved ones dazzled in His illumination.

He laid the path,  
And the faithful ones marched with steadfast feet.

He shattered the shackles of prejudice,  
And the entrusted ones embraced true freedom.

He stirred mankind from slumber,  
And the awakened ones girded up their loins.

He breathed life into the whole creation,  
And created a new race,

Grateful we are, that we have a share of  
His blessings and grace.

Tahera

## From the pages of history

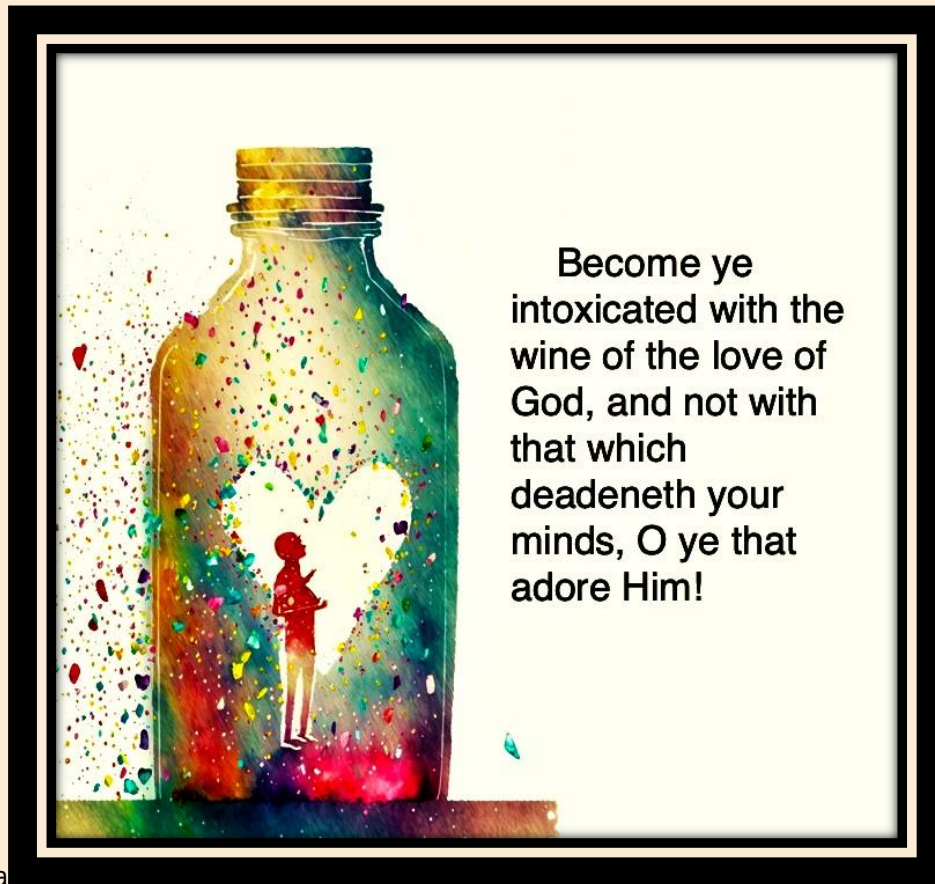
**Declaration of the Bab in the Masjid-i-Vakil** *The Bab, accompanied by Haji Mirza Siyyid Ali, arrived at the Masjid at a time when the Imam-Jum'ih had just ascended the pulpit and was preparing to deliver his sermon. As soon as his eyes fell upon the Bab, he publicly welcomed Him, requested Him to ascend the pulpit, and called upon Him to address the congregation. The Bab, responding to his invitation, advanced towards him and, standing on the first step of the staircase, prepared to address the people. "Come up higher," interjected the Imam-Jum'ih. Complying with his wish, the Bab ascended two more steps. As He was standing, His head hid the breast of Shaykh Abu-Turab, who was occupying the pulpit-top. He began by prefacing His public declaration with an introductory discourse. No sooner had He uttered the opening words of "Praise be to God, who hath in truth created the heavens and the earth," than a certain siyyid known as Siyyidi-Shish-Pari, whose function was to carry the mace before the Imam-Jum'ih, insolently shouted: "Enough of this idle chatter! Declare, now and immediately, the thing you intend to say." The Imam-Jum'ih greatly resented the rudeness of the siyyid's remark. "Hold your peace," he rebuked him, "and be ashamed of your impertinence." He then, turning to the Bab, asked Him to be brief, as this, he said, would allay the excitement of the people. The Bab, as He faced*



the congregation, declared: "The condemnation of God be upon him who regards me either as a representative of the Imam or the gate thereof. The condemnation of God be also upon whosoever imputes to me the charge of having denied the unity of God, of having repudiated the prophethood of Muhammad, the Seal of the Prophets, of having rejected the truth of any of the messengers of old, or of having refused to recognise the guardianship of Ali, the Commander of the Faithful, or of any of the imams who have succeeded him." He then ascended to the top of the staircase, embraced the Imam-Jum'ih, and, descending to the floor of the Masjid, joined the congregation for the observance of the Friday prayer. The Imam-Jum'ih intervened and requested Him to retire. "Your family," he said, "is anxiously awaiting your return. All are apprehensive lest any harm befall you. Repair to your house and there offer your prayer; of greater merit shall this deed be in the sight of God." Haji Mirza Siyyid Ali also was, at the request of the Imam-Jum'ih, asked to accompany his nephew to his home. This precautionary measure which Shaykh Abu-Turab thought it wise to observe was actuated by the fear lest, after the dispersion of the congregation, a few of the evil-minded among the crowd might still attempt to injure the person of the Bab or endanger His life. But for the sagacity, the sympathy, and the careful attention which the Imam-Jum'ih so strikingly displayed on a number of such occasions, the infuriated mob would doubtless have been led to gratify its savage desire, and would have committed the most abominable of excesses. He seemed to have been the instrument of the invisible Hand appointed to protect both the person and the Mission of that Youth. -THE DAWN-BREAKERS & NABIL'S NARRATIVE

## Sharing

*Douglas's sharing:*



## Orange Flags Rise to Honor Truth and Reconciliation



### **Port Alberni, BC**

*As the rain poured down on Sept. 25, Wally Samuel, Tom Watts, and Geraldine Edgar-Tom, residential school survivors, raised the bright orange flag of reconciliation to half mast in front of the Port Alberni City Hall. This is one of many flag raising ceremonies happening this week in recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Sept. 30.*

*“I’m really proud to be part of this,” said Samuel. “I’m proud that people are listening and believing us and willing to work together for [the] future of our community and our people.”*

*Brandi Lauder, elected chief councilor of Hupačasath First Nation, reflected on the impact of residential schools in her nation.*

*“One of our own members passed at that school,” said Lauder, speaking about Alberni Indian Residential School (AIRS), which was on the main reserve of their neighboring First Nation, Tsessaht. “Although we were able to bring him home at the time, it still hurts.”*

*“Many children died at that school,” added Lauder. “They were beaten, they were raped, they were tortured.”*

*“They had no parents to turn to and they weren't allowed to go home,” said Lauder. “That’s what we’re remembering.”*

*Though for years the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Memorial Register noted the death of 29 students while at AIRS, in phase one of Tseshaht’s investigation they uncovered that there was a minimum of 67 children who had died while attending the institution.*



*“This will be a day for national truth about the past and not hiding it anymore, and reconciliation between all of us that were and are still a part of it,” said Todd Patola, Port Alberni city councillor, to a crowd of orange. “It honors the people, the individuals who didn’t come back from [the] schools, and it also honors those who survived and were affected by the schools.”*

*Throughout this week orange flags will rise in front of schools throughout School District 70, encompassing Port Alberni, Bamfield, Tofino, and Ucluelet.*

*“I keep telling people the world is changing,” said Watts. “Because this wouldn't have happened 20 years ago.”*

*On Sept. 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, orange will flood the streets of Port Alberni starting at the Barclay Hotel at 10 a.m., where art from the survivors can be viewed. The walk will begin at 11 a.m. and end at Maht Maht’s, the former site of AIRS, where a celebration will be held to recognize the 50th anniversary of the school’s closure.*

*“It isn’t just governments, it isn’t just school districts, it’s actually the citizens in our communities that have a responsibility as well, not just to educate themselves about what happened but to change your attitudes moving forward,” said Watts.*

## *From the editor’s desk*

### **Three Spiritual Ways to Avoid Financial Regrets**

*As I get older, I spend more time reflecting on my life—on the right choices I’ve made and the regrets about the wrong decisions I could have avoided.*

*This reflection often takes me back to the innocence and ignorance of my youth and the things I could have done differently, knowing what I know now. How deeply I wish someone had guided me to the ideas that would have helped me have fewer regrets now.*

*So, I'll try to reach out here with a reminder and a few tips that will hopefully help reduce the percentage of your regrets in those later years:*

## **1. Know yourself—then Plan for your Economic Needs**

*To have a plan or a goal, one has to know for whom they are planning. When we plan for ourselves, we should first understand who we are—and ask ourselves: What is the purpose of our lives?*

*After answering that fundamental question, you'll need to find the answer to a second big question: What do I want? Examining who you are will help you answer what you want.*

*What we want applies not just to our spiritual needs and aspirations—it means deciding the financial needs we require to live a fulfilling life. Contrary to popular opinion that you can never have too much money, many people accumulate thousands of times more wealth than they need. They spend all their energies to get more, while the spiritual elements of life pass them by due to their preoccupation with gathering and managing wealth. Can you imagine a sadder tragedy when we know we do not live on this Earth forever, and our days are numbered? The Baha'i teachings advise me to:*

***“Live then the days of thy life, that are less than a fleeting moment, with thy mind stainless, thy heart unsullied, thy thoughts pure, and thy nature sanctified, so that, free and content, thou mayest put away this mortal frame, and repair unto the mystic paradise and abide in the eternal kingdom for evermore.” –Baha'u'llah***

## **2. Make a Sound Financial Plan, Spiritually**

*With the pressure of the world's many problems weighing on us, we all need guidance—both financial and spiritual. People are looking everywhere to find the solutions to problems that have baffled them and have made the experts confused and helpless, too. When we recognize that financial planning is not just a material consideration but needs to take into account our moral and spiritual values, we can then plan for financial goals that not only support our physical existence but smooth the path of spiritual growth. Do our financial goals support our belief system? Do they reflect integrity and honesty? Do they take into consideration the welfare of others?*

## **3. Plan not Only for yourself but for the Poor**

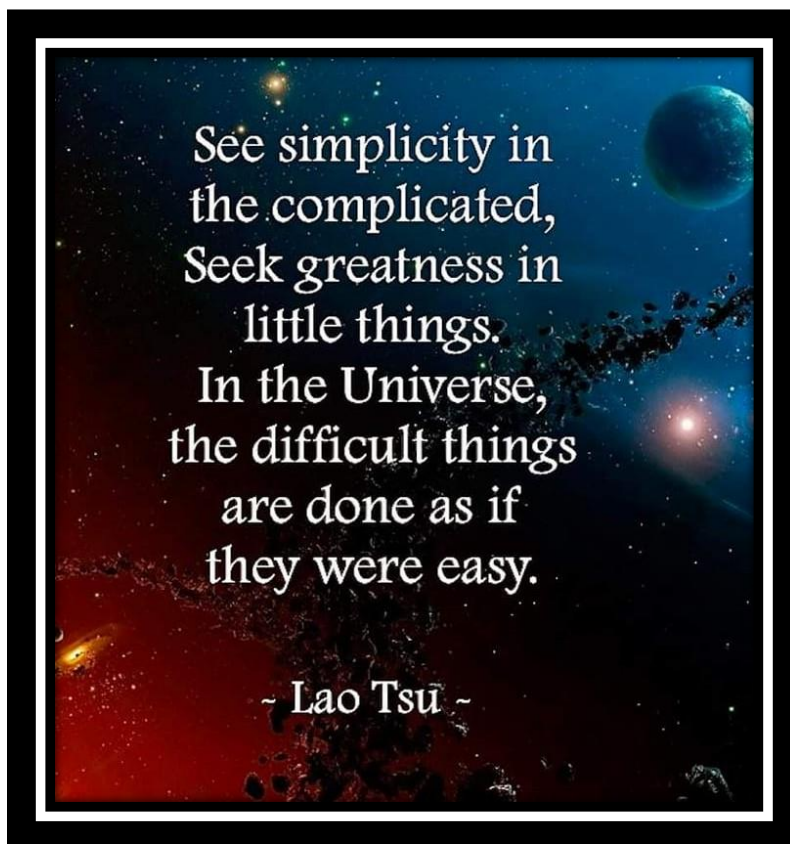
*We live in a world with extremes of wealth and poverty. We can all contribute to eliminating this problem by reaching out to others less fortunate and easing their load. This changes our outlook and gives the mind and soul a sense of peace. Reducing the sufferings of the poor may seem a small task, and yet every day, more and more people are becoming poor, destitute and homeless. Why? Because not enough people plan beyond their self-interests and do something about the plight of the poor.*

*In our next journey, none of us will need money. The material world dies the moment we die. The only reality left at that point is the inner spiritual qualities we have been able to gain through our hard work, meditation, service, and sacrifice.*



*That's the essence of real planning for the future—not only making sure we have sufficient material resources for retirement but also making sure you have the spiritual resources you'll need for your eternal existence. How sad to reach the end of our physical journey and realize that we have not accumulated enough for the next world because we were distracted, overwhelmed and obsessed by the material world and forgot to put away something for our spiritual journey.*

### *Famous quotes:*



### *Holy Writings to Ponder and Practice*

**“Let a man leave anger, let him forsake pride, let him overcome all bondage! No sufferings befall the man who is not attached to name and form, and who calls nothing his own.” -Bhuddah**

### *Upcoming Events:*

**Coming feast, Ilm/Knowledge, October 16, 2023**

**Next feast, Qudrat/Power, November 3, 2023**

**Birthday of the Bab, October 16, 2023**

**Birthday of Baha'u'llah, October 17, 2023**

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