

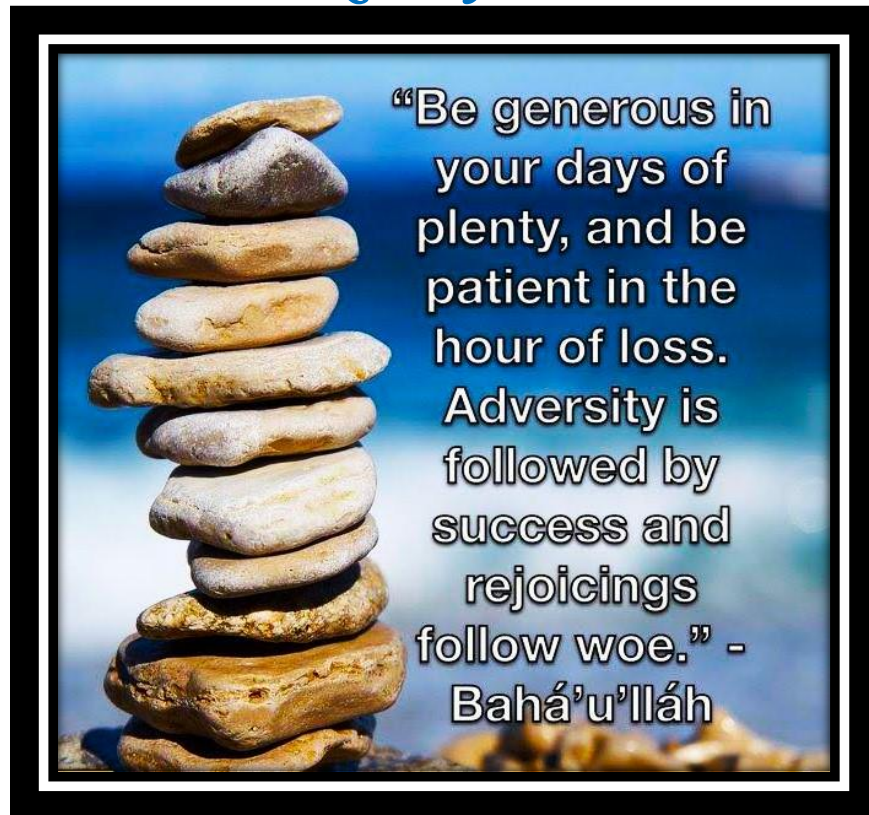


Port Alberni Nuggets

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Qawl/Speech, 180, BE

Baha'i Quote of the Month



Baha'i Stories:

Covenant

Mrs. Gibbons, a Bahá'í, had written the Master before His coming to the United States, requesting that her own daughter be allowed to paint His portrait. In His reply He consented to this request and added, according to Mrs. Gibbons, that Juliet Thompson would paint a portrait of Him. Juliet Thompson had long dreamed that she would paint the face of Christ.

During the month of June, 'Abdu'l-Bahá allowed Juliet Thompson to paint His portrait, telling her to paint His "Servitude to God". She completed it over the course of six sittings which took place over

multiple days in different rooms. Juliet remembered that fourth sitting on June 19th because of an extraordinary experience she and Lua Getsinger had on that day.

As the Master prepared to sit for the portrait, He turned to Lua Getsinger who was also in the room and told her in Persian that these sittings made Him sleepy. He sat down and closed His eyes. Juliet studied Him but found that she could not begin painting because 'Abdu'l-Bahá's countenance reflected the dignity and peace of the Divine Realm.

Then, as though awakened by the Holy Spirit, 'Abdu'l-Bahá opened His eyes and with great power said:

"I appoint you, Lua, the Herald of the Covenant. And I AM THE COVENANT, appointed by Bahá'u'lláh. And no one can refute His Word. This is the Testament of Bahá'u'lláh. You will find it in the Holy Book of Aqdas. Go forth and proclaim, 'This is THE COVENANT OF GOD in your midst.'"

A great joy seemed to fill Lua while Juliet wept at witnessing this extraordinary moment of spiritual force flowing through the Master. Then 'Abdu'l-Bahá became quiet again. The Holy Spirit receded, and 'Abdu'l-Bahá the man re-emerged. He smiled at Juliet and told her that she must stop crying since she would not be able to paint through tears.

In the afternoon of that same day He sent Lua Getsinger downstairs to speak about the Covenant to the visitors waiting there. When He went down later, He read from Bahá'u'lláh's Tablet of the Branch and spoke with great power on the Covenant.

'Abdu'l-Bahá designated New York City, the "City of the Covenant".

The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'is of Malaysia 2012

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. A replica of the Bahai Temple of Worship made by a jeweller from Jaipur was displaced at his showroom at Gandhinagar. There was a service project in Shivdaspura that was aimed against the social evil of alcohol and its bad effects on society. Preparations for the program for teachers' meetings are completed. All were encouraged to pray to Baha'u'llah for the success of the program.





The Bahá'í World News Service

Bahá'í World Centre: BWNS website now features the Persian language



BAHÁ'Í WORLD CENTRE — The Bahá'í World News Service now includes the Persian language on its website, marking a notable enhancement since the News Service was established over two decades ago. While a distinct Persian site had existed until recently, this integration represents an important step in offering visitors a more complete experience.

Accompanying this release is the launch of a dedicated YouTube channel, offering Persian-language versions of BWNS video productions on developments in the global Bahá'í community. To further enrich the experience for Persian-speaking audiences, the News Service has also introduced an email subscription to deliver the latest stories.

Established in the year 2000, the Bahá'í World News Service aims to publish thought-provoking and inspiring stories on insights emerging from efforts of the worldwide Bahá'í community to contribute to social betterment.

The Persian site sits alongside the English and three other language versions of the News Service: French, Russian, and Spanish.

In addition to the website, the News Service is also available on a mobile application (Android and iOS), Facebook, Instagram (Persian), X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube.

Poem of the month:



From the pages of history

The two dreams of Mirza Muhammad-Taqiy-i-Nuri

Baha'u'llah had already, prior to the declaration of the Bab, visited the district of Nur, at a time when the celebrated mujtahid Mirza Muhammad Taqiy-i-Nuri was at the height of his authority and influence. Such was the eminence of his position, that they who sat at his feet regarded themselves each as the authorised exponent of the Faith and Law of Islam. The mujtahid was addressing a company of over two hundred of such disciples, and was expatiating upon a dark passage of the reported utterances of the imams, when Baha'u'llah, followed by a number of His companions, passed by that place, and paused for a while to listen to his discourse. The mujtahid asked his disciples to elucidate an abstruse theory relating to the metaphysical aspects of the Islamic teachings. As they all confessed their inability to explain it, Baha'u'llah was moved to give, in brief but convincing language, a lucid exposition of that theory. The mujtahid was greatly annoyed at the incompetence of his disciples. "For years I have been instructing you," he angrily exclaimed, "and have patiently striven to instil into your minds the profoundest truths and the noblest principles of the Faith. And yet you allow, after all these years of

persistent study, this youth, a wearer of the kulah,⁽¹⁾ who has had no share in scholarly training, and who is entirely unfamiliar with your academic learning, to demonstrate his superiority over you!

Later on, when Baha'u'llah had departed, the mujtahid related to his disciples two of his recent dreams, the circumstances of which he believed were of the utmost significance. "In my first dream," he said, "I was standing in the midst of a vast concourse of people, all of whom seemed to be pointing to a certain house in which they said the Sahibu'z-Zaman dwelt. Frantic with joy, I hastened in my dream to attain His presence. When I reached the house, I was, to my great surprise, refused admittance. 'The promised Qa'im,' I was informed, 'is engaged in private conversation with another Person. Access to them is strictly forbidden.' From the guards who were standing beside the door, I gathered that that Person was none other than Baha'u'llah.

"In my second dream," the mujtahid continued, "I found myself in a place where I beheld around me a number of coffers, each of which, it was stated, belonged to Baha'u'llah. As I opened them, I found them to be filled with books. Every word and letter recorded in these books was set with the most exquisite jewels. Their radiance dazzled me. I was so overpowered by their brilliance that I awoke suddenly from my dream." -THE DAWN-BREAKERS & NABIL'S NARRATIVE

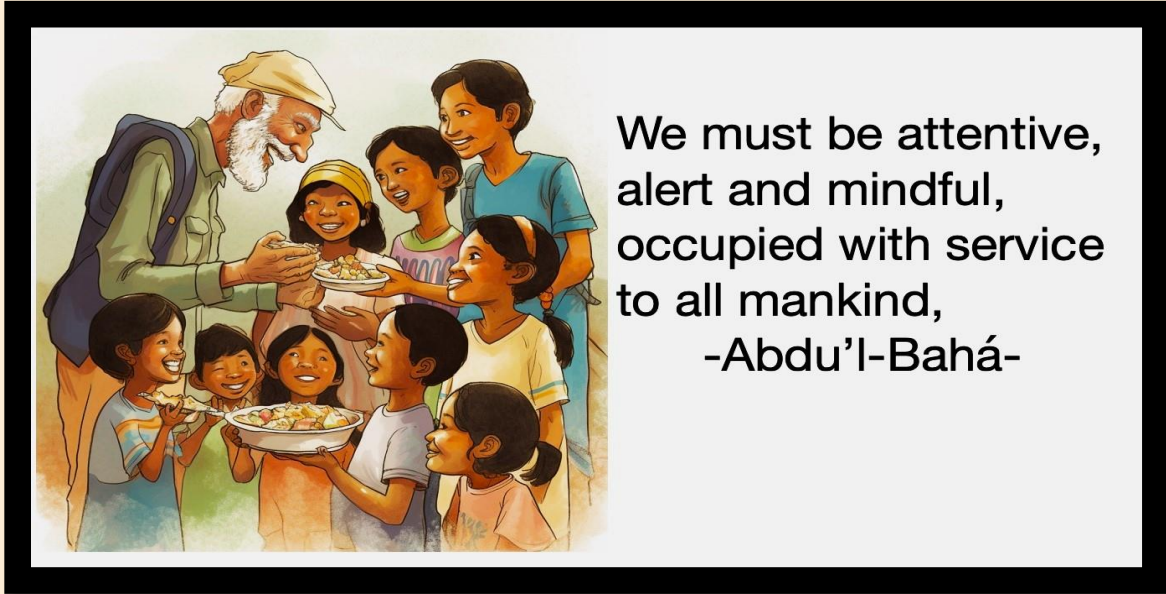
Sharing

Leo Tabibzadegan's sharing:

My kids support community members in need with a special prayer. We hope to keep more of our struggling community members in our hearts, minds and prayers to show our love and support in any way we can. If not in person, at least in spirit ❤️. (The healing prayer is at the bottom of the picture)



Douglas's sharing:



We must be attentive,
alert and mindful,
occupied with service
to all mankind,
-Abdu'l-Bahá-

News and Nuggets from Other Religions and Communities



Mowachaht/Muchalaht awarded \$15 million to protect old growth and salmon



The continued health of old growth forest in Nootka Sound is intimately tied to the survival of salmon in the area, according to those behind Mowachaht/Muchalaht's Salmon Parks project. (Eric Plummer)

Nootka Sound, BC

A project to protect a significant portion of Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory has been pledged \$15-million from the federal government, fueling an initiative to save old growth and salmon populations in Nootka Sound over the next generation.

On Oct. 30 Canada's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change sent a letter to Eric Angel, project manager for the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation's Salmon Parks initiative. This confirmed over \$15 million in funding for the project, payable up to March 31, 2026.

"I seek the highest level of environmental quality in order to enhance the well-being of Canadians," wrote Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault. "In this regard, one of my priorities is to advance conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development."

Other funding has been secured from the Ancient Forest Alliance, the Endangered Ecosystems Alliance, the Indigenous Watershed Initiative, Nature Based Solutions Foundation, Nature United and the Sitka Foundation, as well as other organizations providing expertise at no cost.

The project, which is titled 'Mowachaht/Muchalaht Salmon Parks Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area – Old Growth Estuary Protection', is designed to conserve critical parts of the territory by changing the tide of industrial activity in Nootka Sound.

"Salmon parks, fundamentally, is about setting things right again in this wonderful part of the world so that the chiefs are in a position to look after the ha-hahoulthee," explained Angel during a tour of the Salmon Parks in October.

A major part of setting things right is halting logging in the designated areas. According to the Salmon Parks project application, at the current rate of harvest all old growth forests in Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory will be logged in the next 15 years.

As industrial forestry developed in the region, wild salmon populations in Nootka Sound have declined by 90 per cent, according to the project description, and could become extinct in the next 20 years without serious intervention.

"Old growth ecosystems are salmon ecosystems. They evolved together," said Angel.

"We're witnessing another extirpation series, small extinctions of salmon throughout the Pacific northwest," he added. "There's no one cause of that, but old growth forests, the destruction of them has been nothing short of catastrophic for salmon populations."

The federal funding allows the Salmon Parks project to protect 38,868 hectares of old-growth forest, areas in Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory that contain "critical salmon ecosystems", according to the application. The majority, or almost \$12.5 million, of the federal funding is set aside for land acquisition costs, such as the buyouts of tenures held by forestry companies on the Crown land. Currently Western Forest Products and BC Timber Sales hold these tenures, which are legally recognized under provincial law.

"We have to deal with the existing industrial and commercial interests on the landscape," explained Angel. "That's primarily forestry, and they're going to want to be compensated."

The Salmon Parks are already recognized under Mowachaht/Muchalaht law, but provincial designation is now necessary for the areas to be protected into the future.

“For Salmon Parks to be considered by the chief forester, or any other agency for that matter, requires some form of legislated protection,” said Roger Dunlop, the project’s technical lead and Mowachaht/Muchalaht’s Lands and Natural Resource manager.

“British Columbia made a huge mistake when they decided to liquidate all the timber harvesting land base, which means every tree in British Columbia that’s accessible,” continued Dunlop. “This is the nation’s alternative to that mistake.”

The federal funding will also go towards professional services necessary for Salmon Parks as well as external contractors and guardians from the Mowachaht/Muchalaht community to monitor and report on the designated areas.

It’s possible that Jamie James could play a leading role in this management. The First Nation’s field logistics coordinator spent his childhood on the shore of Muchalaht Inlet in Ahaminaquus, where his father taught him how to fish.

“It was really about living off the land, understanding what it meant to provide for the family but also for the community,” said James, who is concerned about carrying on the teachings of sustainability from his father, who grew up in Yuquot. “Once you start losing all of this stuff, you can no longer depend on the land to make a livelihood. That’s what scares me a lot.”

Although industrial-scale logging will no longer be permitted in the Salmon Parks, other small-scale activities can continue, particularly hunting, fishing and the cultural harvesting of trees. For James, these traditional practices are part of an interconnected way of living that he hopes the Salmon Parks will foster, a network that includes animals and people who rely on salmon-bearing streams.

“The broader part of the whole thing about the Salmon Parks, to me, is really being able to protect the landscape, the habitat, the resources, the environment - the sustainability for people that depend on all those things,” he said. “It’s the connection of all those things that depend on those resources.”

“As humans, we need to adapt to nature itself, rather than getting nature to adapt to us,” said James.

The old growth forest that Ottawa recently funded for protection is part of 66,595 hectares of critical habitat in Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory that the Salmon Parks project encompasses. The First Nation hopes to have this whole area protected by 2030 – the same year that the federal Liberals and have pledged to have 30 per cent of Canadian waters and land protected.

On Nov. 3 the feds put serious money behind this promise, with the announcement of the Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation. The result of negotiations between the federal government, the province and the First Nations Leadership Council, this brings a fund that could reach over \$1 billion over the course of the agreement, shouldered equally by Ottawa and the B.C. government.

Although the Government of Canada cannot declare IPCAs in a province, the agreement could lead to such designation in a First Nation’s territory.

“The Framework agreement supports a collaborative approach to landscape-based ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation in B.C.,” wrote Cecelia Parsons, a spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change Canada, in an email to Ha-Shilth-Sa. “The agreement will support indigenous partners establish Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.”

From the editor's desk

Do We Need to Justify Our Spending?

Do we have to justify our spending to anyone? Most people would answer, "No—my money is mine, I earned it, and I can spend it any way I want!"

There are some people who consider themselves hedonists; hedonism is a school of thought which argues that pleasure and happiness are the primary or most important intrinsic goods and the proper aim of human life. Hedonists strive to maximize net pleasure, so for them spending any amount of money in the pursuit of pleasure would seem justifiable.

Entire philosophies have been built around this idea, including one that is called ethical hedonism—the idea that all people have the right to do everything in their power to achieve the greatest amount of pleasure possible. Ethical hedonism maintains that every person's pleasure should far surpass the amount of pain. Started by Aristippus of Cyrene, a student of Socrates, ethical hedonists hold the idea that pleasure constitutes the highest good.

While not denying the importance of pleasure in our lives, the Baha'i Faith and most religions look at life differently. Rather than living solely to maximize our own pleasure, we should be trying our best to love the Creator, seek God's pleasure, and therefore love His creation—humanity. Instead of focusing solely on personal pleasure, the religious writings say, we should turn away from ourselves and focus on a higher purpose in life. I personally know people who are mindful of their spending to save so that they can give to charitable causes. My personal guidance is:

"You must assist the poor as much as possible, even by sacrifice of yourself. No deed of man is greater before God than helping the poor. Spiritual conditions are not dependent upon the possession of worldly treasures or the absence of them." -Abdu'l-Baha

So, let us try to look at our personal spending in that light.

In one way, my spending reflects my values. "You are what you buy," as one writer put it. If I spend primarily on myself and my pleasure, it may indicate a lack of empathy for or awareness of other people's needs. On the other hand, if much of my spending goes to help others, obviously, I have come to recognize the extreme poverty in the world. If I am fully aware of the great poverty in the world today, I soon recognize that I'll have to answer to my conscience for any unnecessary or selfish spending. That compassionate awareness and the actions that accompany it can shift my material choices to reflect spiritual decisions. An added benefit of this is combating materialism and consumerism, which weaken our sense of humanity.

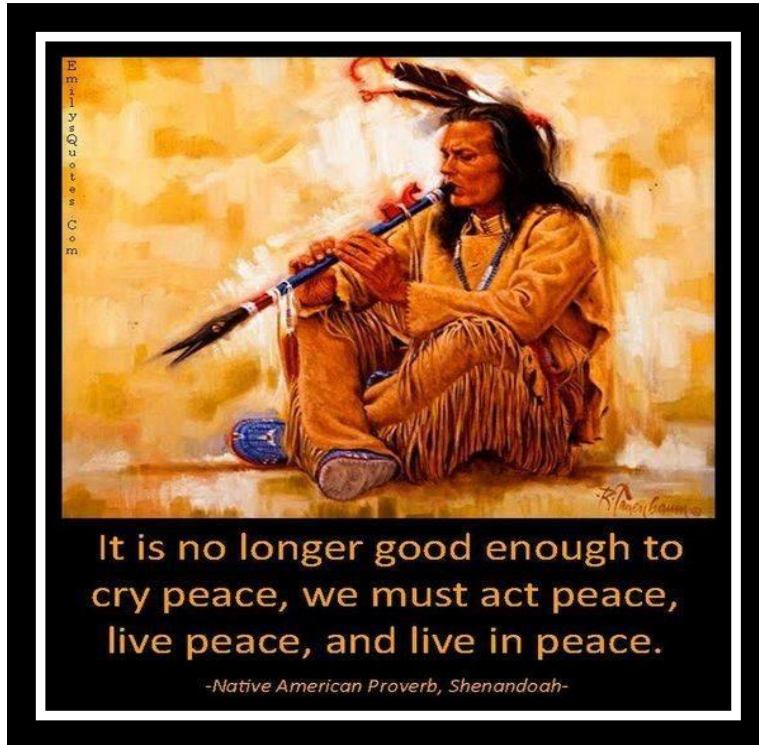
No power in the world can force people to re-examine or justify their spending habits, except the power of our own realization and awareness of the level of poverty of our fellow human beings, many of whom are barely surviving.

If only I could see others as members of my human family, then I would not let my relatives live in abject poverty, hunger, and want while I spend my resources on luxuries and pleasures for myself.

I believe that humanity is gradually waking up to the fact that we have a very important responsibility and duty to look after the poor and needy, to make sure that they are cared for and live happily. This is a

God-given duty. They have been entrusted to us, and by caring for them, we take a step towards a future society in which there are no poor.

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, Qawl/Speech, November 23, 2023

The day of Covenant, November 26, 2023

Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha, November 28, 2023

Next feast, Masa'il/Questions, December, 2023

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