



# Port Alberni Nuggets

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## Baha'i Quote of the Month



## Baha'i Stories:

### **Friendship**

*In the morning friends and seekers surrounded 'Abdu'l-Bahá like moths. He spoke to them in these words: You must have deep love for one another. Go to see each other and be consoling friends to all. If a friend lives a little distance from the town, go to see him. Do not content yourselves with words only but act according to the commandments of God. Hold weekly meetings and give feasts. Put forth your efforts to acquire spiritual perfections and to spread the knowledge of God. These are the attributes of the Bahá'ís. Otherwise, what use is there in being a Bahá'í in word alone.*

*Mahmud's Diary, Sept. 20, 1912*

## News and Events:

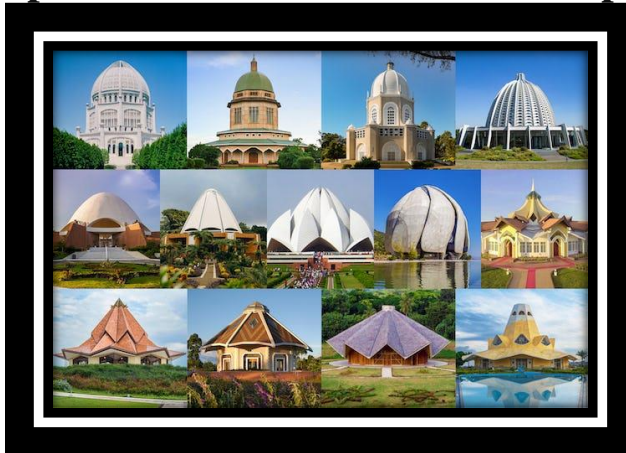
## News from our twin community of Jaipur, India

*A trustee of Huququ'llah was in Jaipur, she met with the community and had a special session on Huququ'llah and how important it is for our own development. The holy day of the Declaration of the Bab was celebrated. A teacher animator gathering was held. The ascension of Baha'u'llah was held, and the Tablet of Visitation was read at 3:00 A.M.*



## The Bahá'í World News Service

### Houses of Worship: Three new Houses of Worship to be established



**BAHÁ'Í WORLD CENTRE** — *The Universal House of Justice has announced plans for three new Bahá'í Houses of Worship to be established—local temples in Kanchanpur, Nepal, and Mwinilunga, Zambia, along with a national temple in Canada.*

*This news follows the historic moment in 2012, when the House of Justice announced the first national and local Houses of Worship to be raised up.*

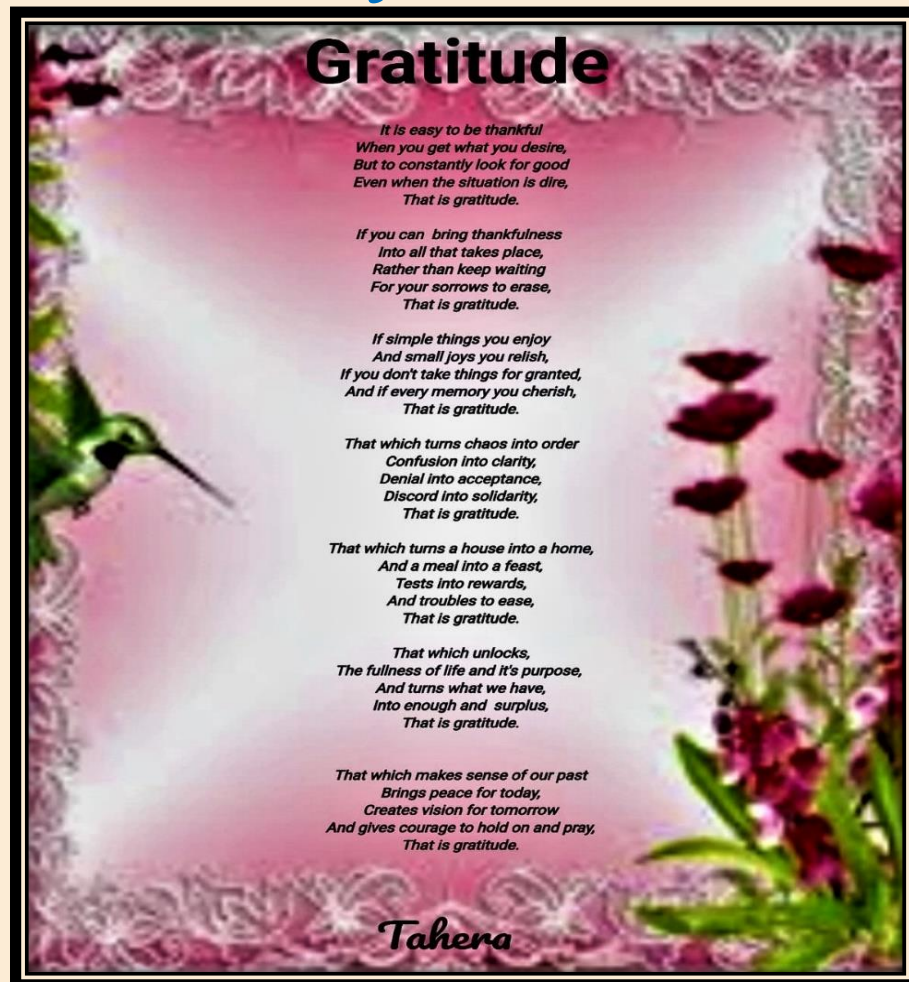
*The House of Worship—referred to in the Bahá’í writings as a Mashriqu’l-Adhkár, meaning “Dawning-place of the Praise of God”—holds a unique place at the heart of the community. Open to everyone, it is a place where prayer and contemplation inspire service to society.*

*The establishment of Houses of Worship is intertwined with the development of Bahá’í communities worldwide. A burgeoning devotional spirit in a locality finds expression in prayer gatherings that foster social harmony, as well as in educational programs dedicated to building capacity for service to humanity. This interplay of worship and service becomes particularly apparent in communities where efforts to contribute to material and social progress are on the rise.*

*In localities where these efforts are flourishing, a greater appreciation for unity is fostered. People from all backgrounds find a shared sense of purpose as they explore the deeper meaning of life. Strangers become friends, their vision of a hopeful future inspiring them to be more thoughtful toward one another, while becoming increasingly conscious of the social and economic needs of their community.*

*As the capacity of these communities to serve their society expands, in the course of time a Bahá’í House of Worship can eventually emerge. These sacred edifices foster social, humanitarian, and educational agencies to serve surrounding populations.*

## Poem of the month



## From the pages of history

### **The circumambulation of the Ka'bih by the Bab**

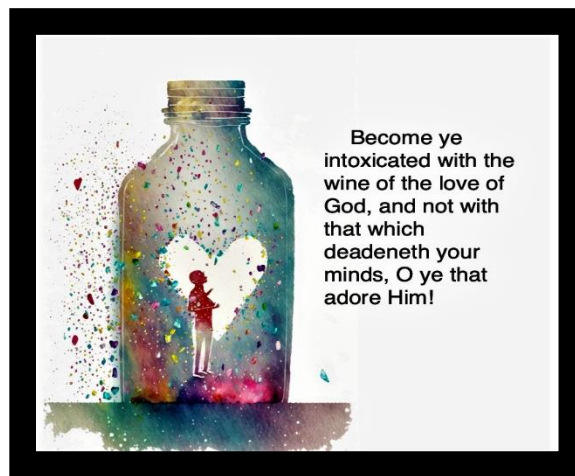
*Although the month of Dhi'l-Hijjih, the month of pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina, coincided in that year with the first month of the winter season, yet so intense was the heat in that region that the pilgrims who made the circuit of*

*the sacred shrine were unable to perform that rite in their usual garments. Draped in a light, loose-fitting tunic, they joined in the celebration of the festival. The Bab, however, refused, as a mark of deference, to discard either His turban or cloak. Dressed in His usual attire, He, with the utmost dignity and calm, and with extreme simplicity and reverence, compassed the Ka'bih and performed all the prescribed rites of worship.*

*On the last day of His pilgrimage to Mecca, the Bab met Mirza Muhiit-i-Kirmani. He stood facing the Black Stone, when the Bab approached him and, taking his hand in His, addressed him in these words: "O Muhiit! You regard yourself as one of the most outstanding figures of the shaykhi community and a distinguished exponent of its teachings. In your heart you even claim to be one of the direct successors and rightful inheritors of those twin great Lights, those Stars that have heralded the morn of Divine guidance. Behold, we are both now standing within this most sacred shrine. Within its hallowed precincts, He whose Spirit dwells in this place can cause Truth immediately to be known and distinguished from falsehood, and righteousness from error. Verily I declare, none besides Me in this day, whether in the East or in the West, can claim to be the Gate that leads men to the knowledge of God. My proof is none other than that proof whereby the truth of the Prophet Muhammad was established. Ask Me whatsoever you please; now, at this very moment, I pledge Myself to reveal such verses as can demonstrate the truth of My mission. You must choose either to submit yourself unreservedly to My Cause or to repudiate it entirely. You have no other alternative. If you choose to reject My message, I will not let go your hand until you pledge your word to declare publicly your repudiation of the Truth which I have proclaimed. Thus shall He who speaks the Truth be made known, and he that speaks falsely shall be condemned to eternal misery and shame. Then shall the way of Truth be revealed and made manifest to all men." -THE DAWN-BREAKERS & NABIL'S NARRATIVE*

## Sharing

*Douglas' sharing:*



# News and Nuggets from Other Religions and Communities



## *New technology separates farmed salmon from wild stocks, as industry navigates through uncertainty*



*Since the fall of 2020, Cermaq has been trialing a semi-closed containment salmon farm at a Millar Channel sit in the Ahousaht territory. (BC Salmon Farmers Association photo)*

### ***Vancouver Island, BC***

*After a disappointing first trial, the second batch of fish being raised in a semi-closed system in Ahousaht territory is “exceeding expectations”, raising hope that the technology will add another stage to salmon farming that removes contact between farmed and wild stocks.*

*Cermaq has overseen the Atlantic salmon at its Millar Channel site for more than three months since the trial began in the fall. Known as semi-closed containment, the site differs from the traditional net pens by using an enormous bag composed of a synthetic non-permeable material that blocks out the surrounding ocean. Manufactured in Norway and assembled at Port Alberni’s Canal Beach, the semi-closed site is expected to keep the salmon until May. At that point Cermaq plans to move them to a traditional net pen in another Clayoquot Sound location, where the fish will remain for another 10 months until reaching harvest weight.*

*Before being moved into the semi-closed site the salmon were raised in land-based hatcheries for 12 months, which follows Cermaq's usual practice of rearing fish. Oxygen and water are pumped into the ocean site from a depth of 23 metres, and so far lice have not been detected in the fish, avoiding an ongoing challenge in salmon farming.*

*"At 23 metres we don't anticipate to find things that you'll find at the top of the water like sea lice and other harmful plankton species," said David Kiemele, managing director of Cermaq Canada, who hopes the semi-closed containment technology will become the first stage of the salmon's time in the ocean. "At the first six to eight months at sea we can avoid the need to mechanically delouse the fish, and also improve on growth and survival during that period as well."*

*This is Cermaq's second trial of using the semi-closed system in Millar Channel, after the first run that started in the fall of 2020 yielded fish that were too small to sell.*

*"The first trial didn't go as well as we would have hoped, but like anything new and innovative, there's a bit of a learning curve," admitted Kiemele. "Those fish didn't make it to the actual harvest weights that we wanted to achieve, we had to pull the plug on the trial early. The fish were only about 1.5 to two kilos when we ended the trial."*

### ***Technology gives more control***

*Despite the challenges of learning how to harness the new technology, semi-closed containment gives aquaculture operators more control over the environment salmon are farmed in, including artificially maintaining oxygen and keeping temperatures more consistent through the year.*

*"We inject oxygen into the bag, that takes out the normal fluctuations that you'll see in the marine environment," said Kiemele. "Warmer water during the winter and consistent oxygen are two key things for better growth."*

*But this comes at a higher cost than net pens, requiring a significant investment if operators are to make semi-closed containment an integral part of salmon farming in the future. To make the practice more sustainable Cermaq is exploring the use of hydroelectric power generated at the farms instead of diesel.*

*"It boils down to reducing interaction between the environment and the farm, which has a number of benefits for not only our fish but also the environment and the wild fish in the area," said Kiemele of semi-closed containment. "We want to be here long-term, and this could be part of how we achieve that."*

### ***'Wild salmon don't have time to wait'***

*Salmon farming continues to face considerable opposition, a distrust of the practice that the Liberals addressed during the last federal election with a pledge to transition away from ocean-based net pens. Now Fisheries Minister Joyce Murray is working under a mandate "to create a responsible plan to transition from open net pen salmon farming in coastal British Columbia waters by 2025."*

*For groups like Clayoquot Action, this change couldn't come soon enough.*

*"It is clear that open-net pens are harming wild salmon by spreading deadly pathogens, parasites and pollution," wrote Executive Director Dan Lewis in a press release issued in October. "Wild salmon*

*don't have time to wait while the salmon farming industry tinkers with experimental technologies. Government must require the industry to get out of the ocean – by 2025 at the latest.”*

*In late September of last year the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs passed a resolution urging a “rapid transition” away from ocean-based net pens to land facilities.*

*“The containment of hundreds of thousands of fish effectively transfers the economic burden of managing fish waste to the environment and surrounding communities,” stated the BCUIC resolution, which ties fish farming to “salmon-related diseases and viruses, including heart and skeletal muscle inflammation (HSMI), piscine reo-virus (PRV), and tenacibaculum, and for hazardous levels of parasitic sea-lice impacting wild migratory juvenile salmon, and unnatural levels of predation targeting vulnerable herring stocks.”*

### ***‘A sacred responsibility’***

*But early this year federal and provincial departments published reports that minimise sea lice concerns and state that moving ocean pens to land facilities is unviable.*

*A recent report commissioned by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food examined the economics of entirely moving salmon farming to land, concluding that the recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) technology used in such facilities would require a total investment of \$1.8 billion for the transition. Conducted by Counterpoint Consulting, the study states that for land-based fish farming, “Profitable production of market-size salmon at commercial scale remains elusive.”*

*“Regulatory uncertainty, high capital cost, low returns on investment, and lack of incentives to locate in British Columbia remain the primary constraints challenging the development of RAS salmon farming in B.C.,” continues the report. “We have concluded from our research and analysis that RAS development in B.C. is possible, but at smaller scales and not in isolation from the larger aquaculture sector currently operating in B.C.”*

*Meanwhile, Fisheries and Oceans Canada published a report by the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat, which found “no statistically significant association” between sea lice on farmed salmon and what was found on wild Pacific stocks. The secretariat found that fish farms on the B.C. coast pose a “minimal risk” to Fraser River sockeye, a species of particular concern amid the continued decline of Pacific stocks.*

*But the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs has been skeptical of the DFO’s studies favouring the industry. Its resolution from last October pointed to evidence provided by the federal Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans “that outlined how DFO repeatedly ignored and misrepresented scientific evidence and overrepresents the interests of industry.”*

*The UBCIC stressed that First Nations “have a sacred responsibility to protect fish from the devastating impacts of open net-pen aquaculture.”*

### ***Governments, activists and ‘eco-colonialists’***

*There are 17 First Nations in B.C. that have formal agreements with fish farm operators, including the Ahousaht, Ehatesaht/Chinehkint and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations in Nuu-chah-nulth territory. The Coalition of First Nations for Finfish Stewardship advocates for most of these nations, and is asserting their territorial rights as pressure on the aquaculture industry continues.*

*“We will choose if, when, and how the sector operates in our waters,” stated a Feb. 3 press release from the coalition.*

*[W]e would not put at risk thousands of years of stewardship nor the future of our peoples for short-term monetary gain,” continued the coalition’s statement. “For too long this conversation about this industry has been taking place between everybody except the nations impacted most. Activists, eco-colonialists, consultants, governments, and the companies have been at the table guiding the path and narrative of fish farming.”*

*Last summer salmon farms on the B.C. coast were granted two-year licence renewals, except sites in the Discovery Islands northeast of Vancouver Island.*

*Cermaq has three sites in the area which have been empty since early 2021, shortly after the federal department originally cancelled their licences.*

*“All fall under agreements with nations in the local area,” said Kiemele. “Two of the three sites have permission to be restocked.”*

*After more than seven months of uncertainty, on Feb. 17 DFO announced it would not be renewing licences for the Discovery Islands farms.*

*For the farms that continue to raise salmon on the B.C. coast, operators are expected to provide details on their transition plan by June. But as 2025 draws closer, the concept of removing net pens by that date is losing meaning, said Kiemele.*

*“Unfortunately, there’s still messages out there about all farms on land by 2025. That’s just simply not true,” he said. “It’s a long-term view that we’re taking here, not focusing on a date that, quite frankly, has sort of become obsolete.”*

## *From the editor’s desk:*

### **Ditching the "Survival of the Fittest" Mentality**

*Most people think that human beings are fundamentally competitive, and they may be right if we look at human history. Industrialists and economists believed that Darwin’s theories justified an economy of vicious competition and inequality. This has left us with a legacy that says that the corporate economy — wealth stays in the hands of a few — is best for humanity. This was always a distortion of Darwin’s ideas. Darwin, in his book "The Descent of Man," states that the human species had succeeded because of qualities like sharing and compassion:*

**“Those communities, which included the greatest number of the most sympathetic members would flourish best, and rear the greatest number of offspring.”**

*He was not an economist, but wealth-sharing and cooperation have always looked more consistent with his conclusions.*

*Humanity began its existence from the Stone Age, where survival of the fittest was the rule of the time. It had to compete with the elements and hunt for food for its survival. Unfortunately, as man’s intellect*



*developed and his economic circumstances improved, he did not have to be the fittest to survive, but he behaved in the same manner. It is an accepted philosophy that competition is praiseworthy at any cost and in all manners without considering the consequences. Economic theories are constructed on this philosophy. The Baha'i writings explain it this way:*

**In the world of nature we behold the living organisms in a ceaseless struggle for existence. Everywhere we are confronted by the evidences of the physical survival of the fittest. This is the very source of error and misapprehension in the opinions and the theories of man who fail to realize that the world of nature is inherently defective in cause and outcome and that the defects therein must be removed by education. -Abdu'l-Baha**

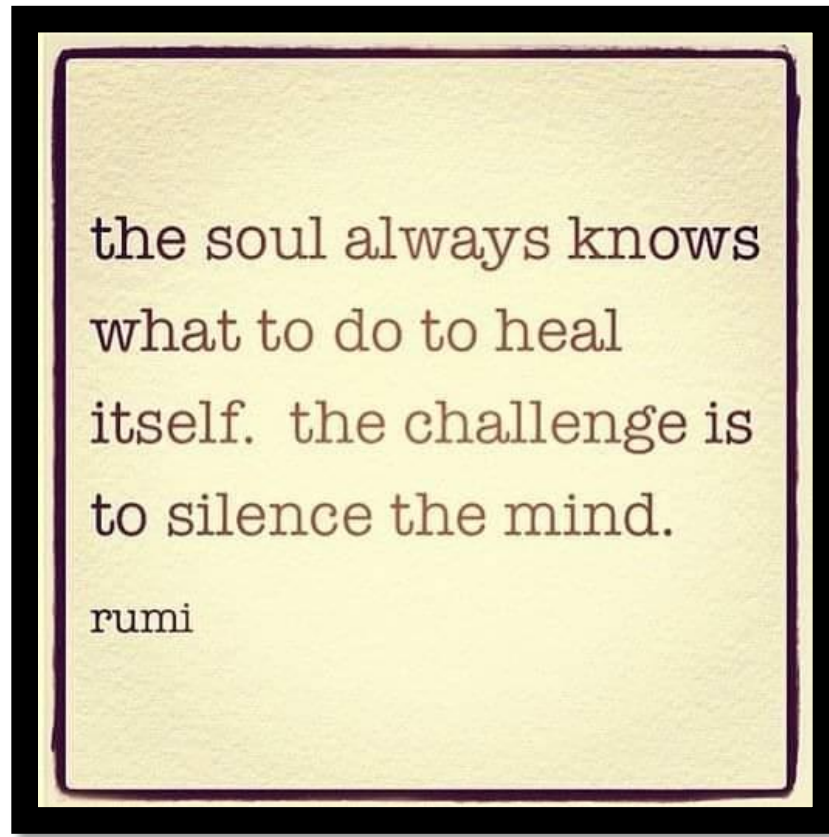
*Although collaboration is getting more recognition these days, it still has been entirely ignored in the economic field. The recent pandemic has highlighted both sides. We have seen the ugly side when different countries and states compete to buy the equipment to fight the virus, which led to skyrocketing prices that the developing countries can never afford. We can find countless examples of collaboration between individuals, communities, nations, and companies. People went out of their way to cooperate and share their resources. I read a social media statement that caught my attention: **“Collaboration is our world’s most essential value right now.”***

*It explains the importance of collaboration instead of competing. It looks to me and many others that the survival of humanity depends on this essential human quality instilled in our soul’s DNA by the Creator.*

*The time has come to do away with old habits of competition that have stayed with us from our primitive days. Even though the scenario has changed, we still compete for territory instead of hunting and fighting. Firms, businesses, and corporations compete in the same spirit of destruction. The big fish eats the small fish, and this is considered to be a success. But it is time for the fish to live and collaborate. We have to educate ourselves to get rid of this remnant of Stone Age behaviour which has no place in modern society.*

*There is nothing wrong with competing. If we want to compete, it should be in the spiritual realm; we should strive to be the most generous person, to be the most kind. That is the real competition. I wish for the day when “Survival of the Nicest” becomes popular and appreciated.*

## *Famous quotes:*



## *Upcoming Events:*

**Coming feast, Nur/Light, June 5, 2023**

**Next feast, Rahmat/Mercy, June24, 2023**

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