



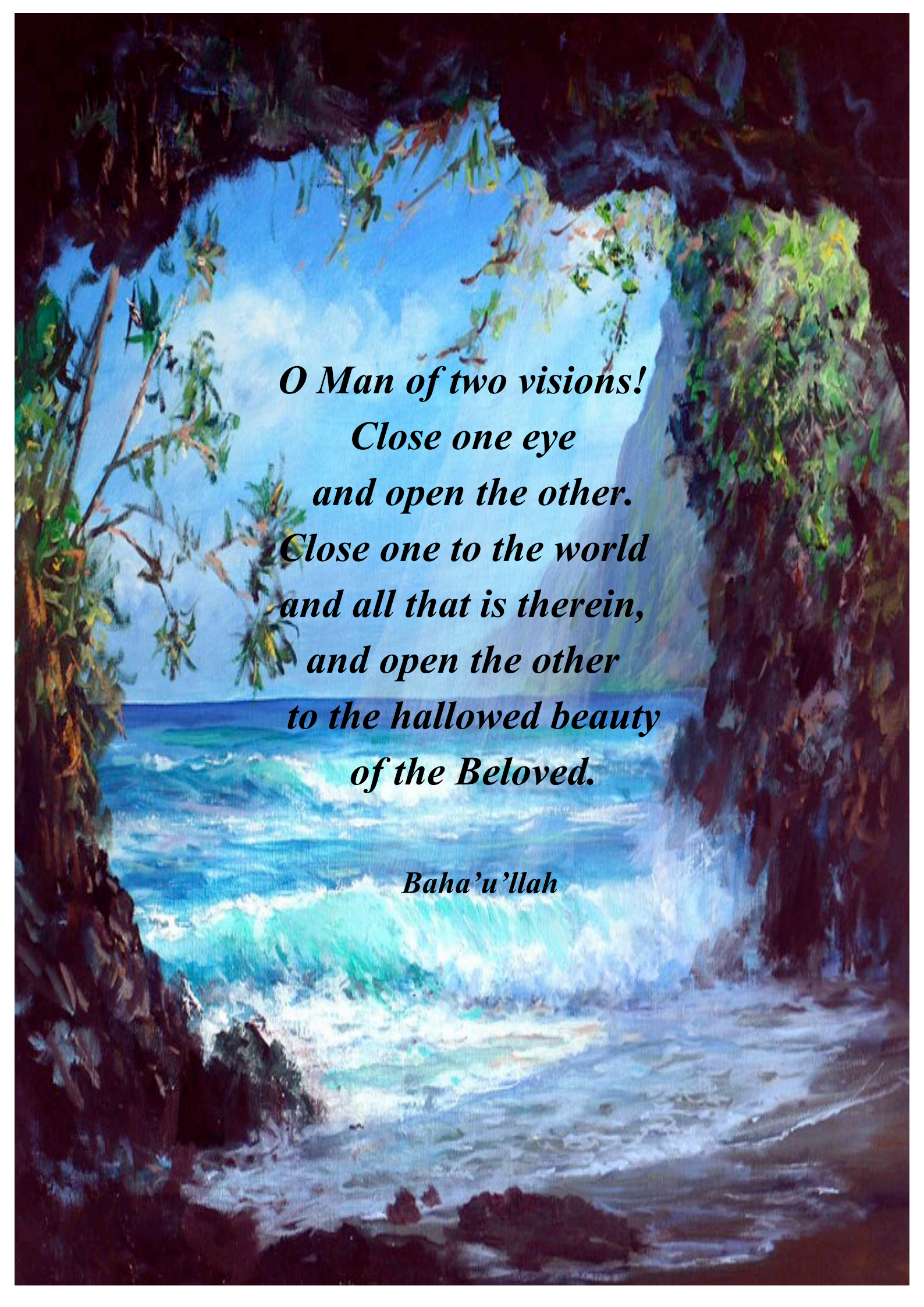
Hiru no

Hoshi

No. 254

Contents

- 2..... Words of Baha'u'llah
- 3..... Spiritual Worlds
- 6..... Quiz
- 7..... Art Project
- 8..... Dot to Dot
- 9.Photos
- 10.Parents' Page



*O Man of two visions!
Close one eye
and open the other.
Close one to the world
and all that is therein,
and open the other
to the hallowed beauty
of the Beloved.*

Baha'u'llah



It was late at night and the children were all gathered with Mother on the top of a high hill. The family was at the Castle ruins, in Yomitan village, Okinawa.

Little Anisa gave a big yawn as she tried to sip her hot chocolate, and said,

“Mommy, why are we outside at night all by ourselves?”

“It’s fun!” put in Riaz, “it’s like an adventure!”

Shahla agreed, “All those far away lights are so pretty! I like it! Let’s do it every night!”

“The city lights look just like a jeweled necklace!” added Mona!

“You guys are hopeless! You don’t even know why we are here!” shouted Asma in frustration.

“Ok”, said Mother, “Go ahead Asma, explain to us why we are here!”

“It’s a Baha’i Holy Day! Ahhhh.....The ‘something’ of Baha’u’llah.....you know the day He died.”

“Ascension,” smiled Mother, “Very good Asma!” And as she passed around the walnut muffins she asked, “Why do you suppose we are here, and not inside the house remembering the night that Baha’u’llah left this earth?” The children wrapped their chilled hands on the warm muffins and looked at each other in the semi darkness. None of them had a clue.

“Mom, you do silly stuff like this all the time, we are used to it!” said Riaz with a laugh. The other children, and Mother, laughed too.

“You know Daddy is in the Holy Land right now, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ascension of Baha’u’llah there. Tonight everyone there is walking around the House of Bahji where Baha’u’llah is buried, so I thought if we were outside in nature we would feel closer to God, too.”

The children all sat up a little straighter and breathed in trying to see if they could feel closer to God.

“Yeah I do!” said Mona, and all the children agreed.

“Why is it being outside makes us feel closer to God?” asked Asma.

“Well,” answered Mother, “God made everything in nature, from the greatest suns to the tiniest insects. So when we look at God’s creation, we feel closer to God. Also, when we look at anything of beauty, we feel closer to God, because Beauty is an attribute of God, and seeing any of God’s attributes, makes us feel closer to God.”

“Ohhh,” said the children, nodding their heads.

“That’s why we feel so good looking out over the ocean!” said Mona, “We feel close to God!”





“I feel like that when I am standing way up high and looking out at something far away! Like I was a bird flying!” said Riaz.

“Yeah! Birds must feel awful close to God!” said little Anisa, and everyone laughed.

“We can feel that same feeling when we see someone reflecting any of God’s attributes.” Mother continued. “Think about when we see someone showing kindness and helping a stranger. Doesn’t that make us feel good? When we see someone sharing, even when they only have a little, or forgiving someone who has hurt them, or perhaps when we see someone being kind to an animal, it makes us feel warm inside. Anytime we see someone showing one of the attributes of God, it makes us feel good. It makes us feel close to God. When we show any of the attributes of God, ourselves, it makes us feel close to God too, doesn’t it.”



The children all thought about what Mother was saying as they drank their hot chocolate and ate their warm muffins.

Mother continued, “Baha’u’llah says, ***‘O Man of two visions! Close one eye and Open the other. Close one to the world and all that is therein, and open the other to the hallowed beauty of the Beloved.’***”

“Does that mean we have two visions, like nearsighted and far sighted?” asked Shahla.

“Or television!” joined in Anisa. And everyone laughed.

“No, silly,” said Mona. “It probably means that we should close our eyes to the things of this world, because they distract us from seeing the more important spiritual world.”

“Very good, Mona! I’m impressed!” praised Mother.

“Who is the Beloved then?” asked Asma, “God? ...and what does ‘hallowed’ mean? Empty?”

“The ‘Beloved’ means ‘God’ and ‘hallowed’ means ‘holy’ ” answered Mother.

“‘O Man of two visions!’ Baha’u’llah is only talking to guys not us girls?” asked Shahla.

“No silly, that’s just holy talk for ‘everybody!’” shouted Riaz.

“Well I think us girls are better at seeing beauty than boys are.” said Shahla as she stuck her tongue out at Riaz.

“What Mona mentioned about us being distracted by the world is a very good point of this quotation, I think.” said Mother. “We are so busy with the things of this world; toys, games, sports, clothes, money, that we forget about the things that are really important;



love, kindness, justice, mercy, compassion, forgiveness; all the things that we can't see, but that we can feel."

"I can't see much in this darkness!" said Shahla, "so I guess I have sit quiet and just feel stuff!"

"That's a very good idea, Shahla!" Mother commented, and then she continued, "There was a very interesting study done with some college students. A film of a busy highway was shown to a group of college students and they were asked to count all the cars they saw in the film, and to write down how many they saw.

During the film a man in a gorilla suit walked right along the middle of the road between the cars going one way, and the ones going the other way. At the end of the movie, the students were each asked if they saw anything unusual while they were counting the cars. None of them had seen the gorilla! Even when asked 'Did you see a gorilla?' they all answered 'No!'

When they showed the same students the same film again, all of them could see the gorilla, and they all said, 'this is a different movie, there was no gorilla in the first one.'"

Mother paused. "Do you understand why none of them could see the gorilla the first time?"

"They were too busy counting cars they couldn't stop and see the gorilla!" said Asma. Then Riaz jumped up and said, "I want to be the guy in the gorilla suit!" And everyone laughed.

Mother continued, "We are often too busy doing our important or fun stuff, to see God's spiritual world that is right here around us, and then we get further and further away from God. So we always have to keep one eye open to the spiritual world while we go about our daily lives.

"Yeah! Keep one eye open for the gorilla!" shouted Riaz.

After everyone stopped laughing, Mother said, "Ok, we came up here for the Anniversary of the Ascension of Baha'u'llah. So, now that we all feel very close to God out here in beautiful nature, let's say some prayers, and maybe sing some prayer songs, and then we will go back home and you can get into your nice warm beds. I don't want you guys to catch colds."

So the children each said a prayer, and they sang some beautiful songs. They all felt very close to God, and were very glad that they had come out to the top of this hill on this dark night.

And they all remember that special night, even after they were all grown up, with children of their own.



Quiz



1. Where does the story take place?

2. What Holy Day were they remembering with prayers?

3. What are we suppose to do with our eyes?

4. What does that mean?

5. How do we do that?

6. What makes us get closer to God?

7. What happened when the college students were counting the cars?

8. Why couldn't any of the students see the gorilla?

9. What don't we see when we are too busy looking at everything in this world?

10. Name three things you can see with your spiritual eye that you can't see with your physical eye.

**How did you do? Did you get them all right?
The answers are on the Parents' Page.**



Kiri E (cutting picture)



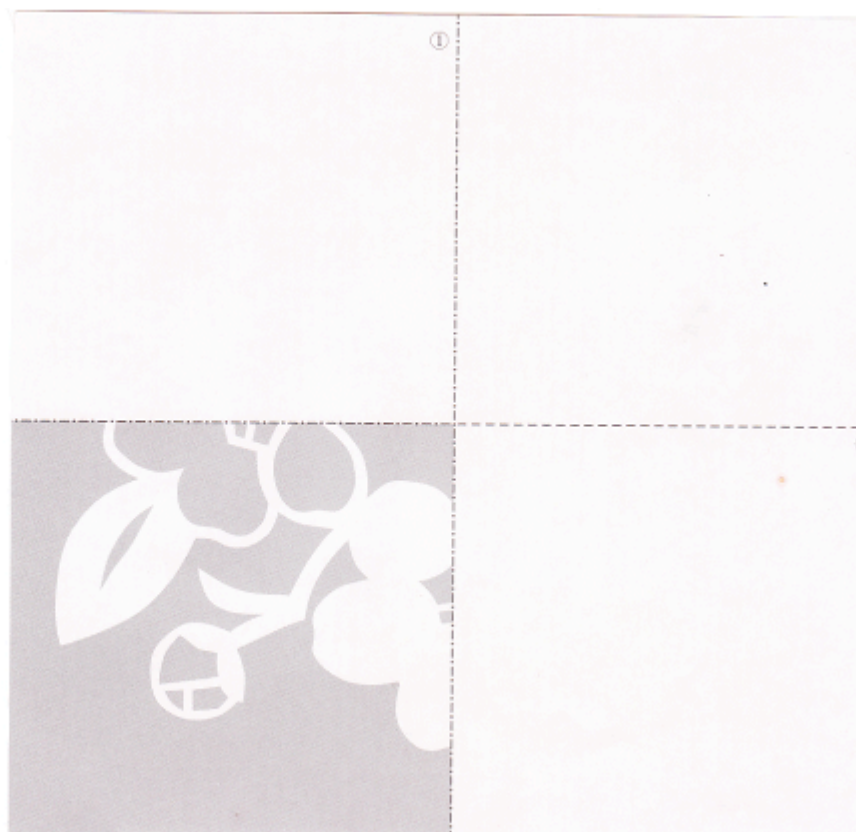
- *Fold this page in half so that the front and back match.
- *Then fold along dotted lines in order of the numbers shown.
- *Using scissors for the outside and a cutter for the insides, cut away all the gray parts.
- *Unfold and glue on to a colored piece of paper to make a nice card.

作り方

- 1 絵柄が1番上になるように、番号順に折る。折り方-p3
- 2 紙を重ねたまま、グレーの部分を切り離す。
- 3 紙を開いてできあがり。

How to

- 1 Fold in the order of the numbers shown, with the cutting pattern side facing up. See p3 for how to fold.
- 2 Cut off the gray areas with the paper folded.
- 3 Unfold the paper.



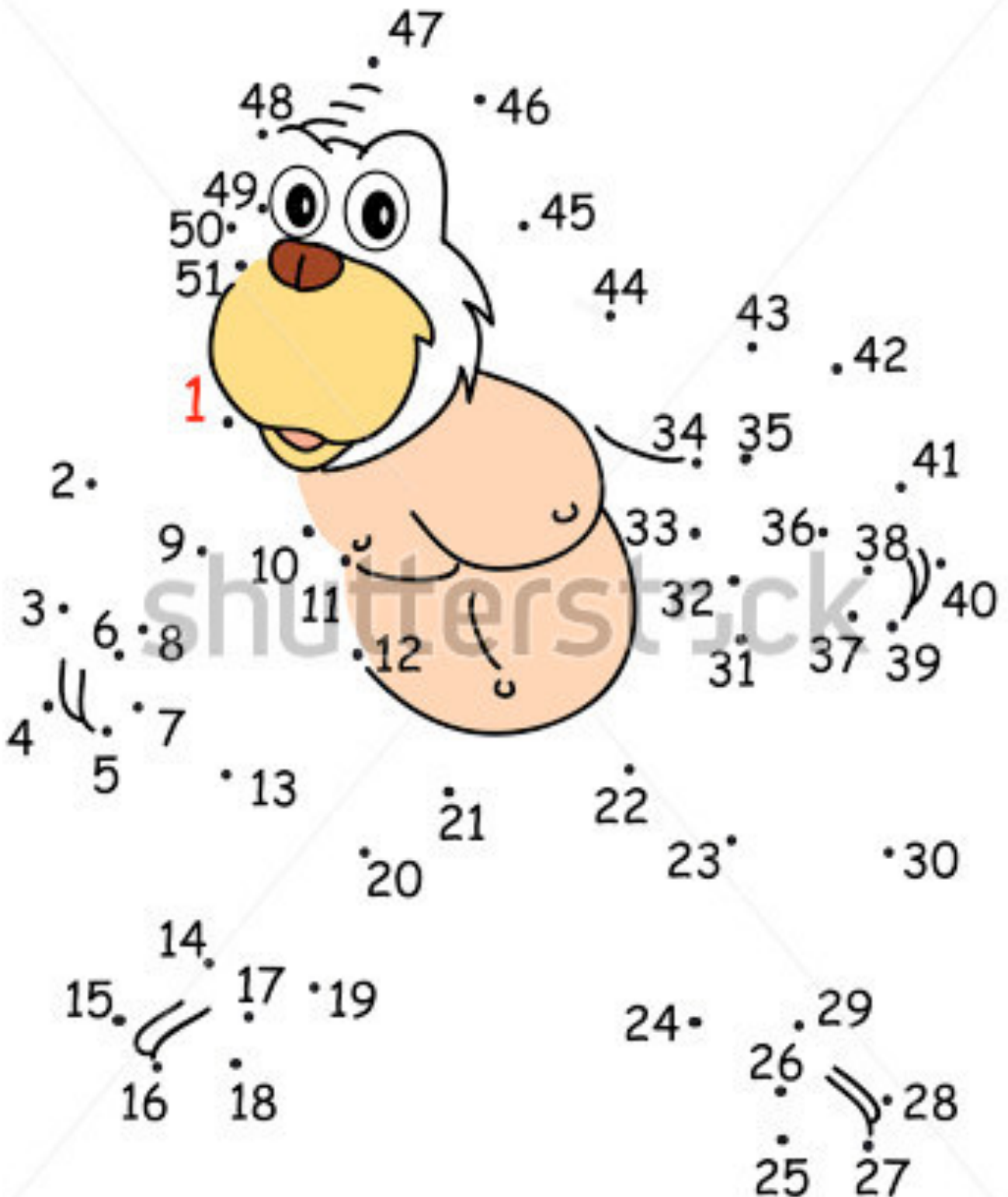
From 1 to 2...

Then from 2 to 3...

Follow the dots...

And what do you see?

Can YOU see the gorilla?





Photos of Everyone



Parents Page

We are not Physical Beings having a spiritual experience, but Spiritual Beings having a physical experience. Or, as Abdul-Baha explains it; ***“Man is in reality, a spiritual being, and only when he lives in the spirit can he be truly happy.”***

So, what is the Spiritual World? What we are trying to explain to the children is that the Spiritual World is not just a “place” that you go to after you die. We are trying to explain that the Spiritual World is all around us, even though we are mostly unaware of it. Just like the baby in the womb of its mother; although we can monitor the baby’s progress very closely, preparing for its coming birth...the baby is mostly unaware of this world. We likewise, are unaware of the Spiritual World all around us. Only by paying attention to the Divine attributes can we get a glimpse into the Spiritual World.



Abdul-Baha explains that the Spiritual World is the world of reality, and that this physical world is just a reflection of that “real” world. Think of a lake that reflects the trees and mountains and rocks surrounding it...an imperfect reflection of the world surrounding the lake. The cleaner the water in the lake, the better the reflection of the surrounding area will be...it will never reflect everything, just the surrounding area. Our physical world is the reflection in the lake.

Baha’u’llah said;

“O Son of Love!

Thou art but one step away from the glorious heights above and from the celestial tree of love. Take thou one pace and with the next advance into the immortal realm and enter the pavilion of eternity....”

None of us can really understand the Spiritual Worlds...we haven’t figured out this world yet! But through prayer and meditation, “closing one eye and opening the other”...we can get a glimpse of it.

Answers to the quiz:

1) At the castle ruins. 2) The Ascension of Baha’u’llah. 3) Close one eye and open the other. 4) Close our physical eyes and open our spiritual eyes. 5) Don’t care so much about physical things, look at spiritual qualities. 6) Seeing Gods attributes reflected in nature and other people. 7) They didn’t see the gorilla. 8) The spiritual world. 9) Love, justice, mercy, compassion etc.





Hiru no Hoshi

No. 254

Published: / June, 2013

If you have stories of your children learning a virtue or anything connected to the Faith, please send them to us, so we can have stories of "A little boy in Yamaguchi" or "A little girl in Akita". You can either write the story yourself or send the details and we will write the story. Either English or Japanese is fine. We also are waiting for pictures of Children's Classes from your community, or drawings from your children. Please send all stories and pictures to luanahirahara@hotmail.com

To print out Issues in color of Hiru no Hoshi see our site

<http://hirunohoshi.weebly.com/>

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Japan

13-2-7 Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo-to

160-0022

Tel. 03-3209-7521

Fax 03-3204-0773

Hiru no Hoshi Committee: Nao Hara, Seishi Hirahara, Luana Hirahara, Edana Almanza

Story: Luana Hirahara,

Translator: Seishi Hirahara,

Dot to Dot: Shutterstock

Art Page: Kazuo Kobayashi, Daiso Publishing Co.

Photographs: Paul Bluett, Luana Hirahara, Hana Mactier, Eriko Kojima

Art: Steve Paschal, Michelle Hanna, Larry Curtis, Luana Hirahara, Kaori Hiramoto

Technical Advisor: Glenn Loe

Supervisor: Yuichi Hirano