

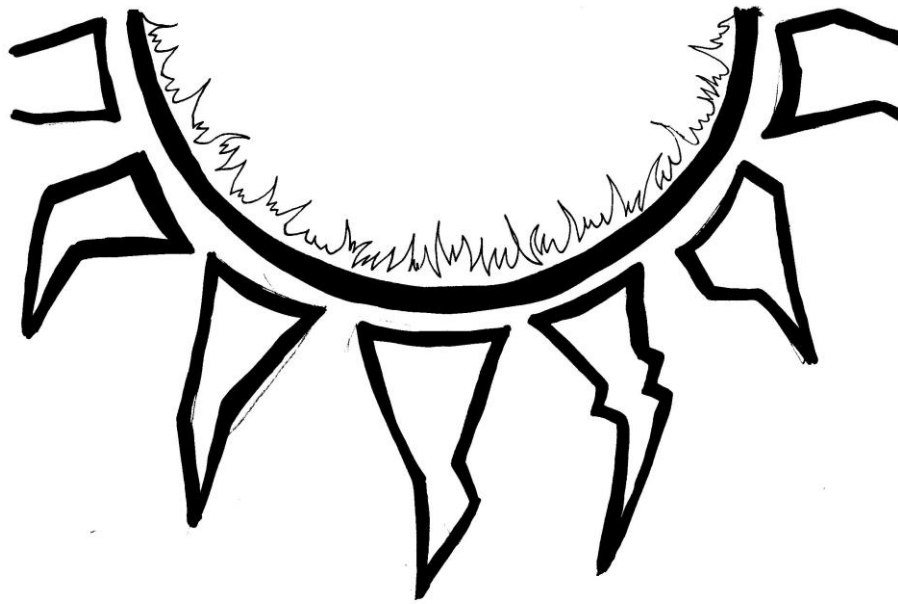
The Lotus symbolizes the Manifestation of God because it is a beautiful flower that grows out of the mud. It detaches itself and rises up towards heaven, just as the Manifestations are born in the human world, but rise above it.

Hiru no Hoshi

No. 23 1

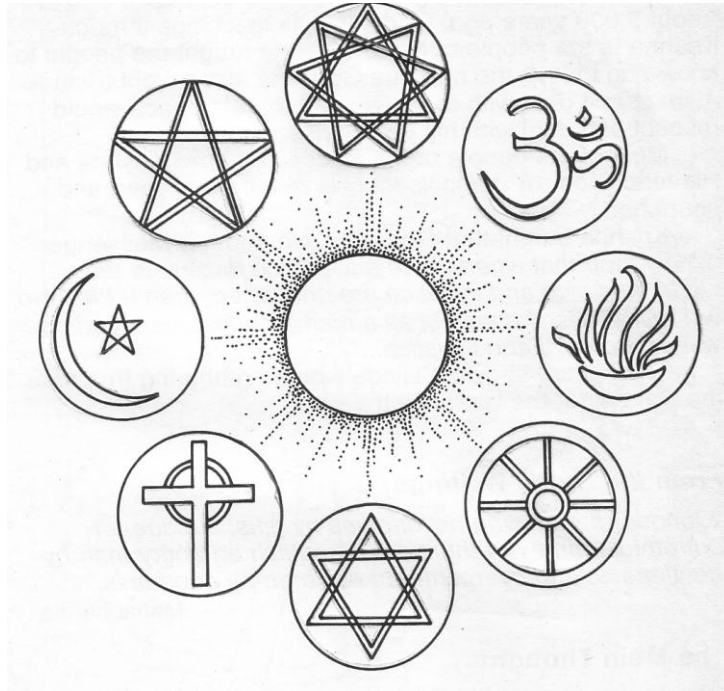
Contents

2. Words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá
3. Oneness of Religion
4. Story of Christ
5. Story of Buddah
6. Story of Baha'ullah
8. Quiz
9. Virtues Page, Love
10. Coloring Page
12. Hello Minna!
13. Parents' Page



“O Thou kind Lord! Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home.”

Abdu’l-Bahá,



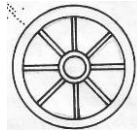
Oneness of Religion

All religions come from the same one God. Just like different size and shaped mirrors reflecting the light of one Sun, all the Great Teachers, or “Manifestations” shine the teachings of God on mankind, and let us know what God wants us to do. This earth is God’s school, and we are the students and the Manifestations of God are like teachers in different grades and classes.

How do we know who these Teachers are? There are three things you can look for.

1. His Teachings.....The teachings are of Love, Kindness and Unity.
2. His Life.....He lives as good and loving a life as His Teachings are.
3. The effect of His Teachings. His teachings make people kinder, gentler, more loving. They help mankind and make civilization better. Some of these Great Teachers are Moses, Krishna, Buddha, Christ, Muhammad, The Báb and Bahá’u’lláh.

Below are the stories of a few of these Great Teachers. See if you can find those 3 things.



Buddha

April 8th is the Birthday of Buddha, it is known as the Flower Festival. About 2,500 years ago in the Himalayan Mountains of Northern India, a prince of the Shaka tribe was born. His mother, Maya was on her way home to her hometown when she stopped at the garden of Runbini to rest. That is where Buddha was born, among the beautiful flowers. That is why Buddhists put flowers on the little statue of Buddha for the Festival. Buddha's father was so happy when he was born, he said "All my wishes have come true" and that is the meaning of the name he gave Him, Siddhartha.

Sadly, this happiness did not last. Shortly after He was born, Lady Maya left this world. One day a mountain wise man, whose name was Ashita, saw an aura around the castle so he came to where Prince Siddhartha was to find out what it meant. Ashita prophesized that "This child is going to be the most great king that will unite the whole world. Or if He follows the Spiritual Path, he will be the Savior of the World, The Buddha (the Enlightened One)".

The Prince, from the time he was 7 years old, studied both literary and military arts so that He could become a great king.

One year during the Spring Festival, He saw a little bird picking the bugs that came out of the soil as the farmer plowed the fields. He murmured to Himself, "How pitiful that living things kill each other." He sat in the shade of a tree and started meditating. The Prince married and lived for 10 years with His bride. During that time he enjoyed the life of luxury at the Palace with its singing and dancing and music. But more and more he thought about this life. "This fine body will someday grow old and become sick, and no one can avoid death. So what is the meaning of having a wonderful life at this Palace? One must be satisfied with the right path, and not be selfishness. This path of luxury must be the wrong path."

At the age of 29 He decided to leave the life of luxury. He left His palace riding on a white horse. The Prince wore simple clothes and lived a life of the most sever fasting and meditation. Six years later, he felt that this life was also meaningless. As He meditated under the Boa Tree, He understood that we need to get rid of all desires, at that moment, He received

enlightenment from God, and that is when he became the Buddha..

People would come to see the Buddha, and receive His teachings. Just as thirsty people wandering in a desert they craved the Living Water of Truth that the Buddha offered. Some of the teachings of Buddha are;

Be detached from your own obsessions.

Leave behind all material things .

Be satisfied with whatever you have.

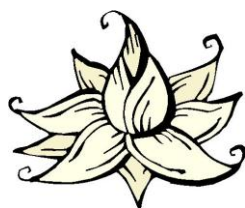
Let the Light of Knowledge dispel the darkness of ignorance.

Mercy is the source of unity.

Justice saves everything.

With teachings such as these, many, many people were saved from unhappy, meaningless lives. For 45 years he traveled around teaching people about the Right Path. When he was about 80 years old, as he lay giving his teachings between 2 large trees, He passed away and went to Nirvana, (heaven).

The teachings of Buddha spread all over India, and brought about a new civilization to the Indian culture. It spread east to China all the way to Japan. To the West the teachings went as far as Greece. To the South, it traveled to the South East Asian Countries, (Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, etc) For centuries these teachings have enlightened the hearts of all these Asian peoples and cultures, and even spread to the Western countries.





Christ

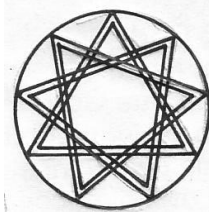
Every year, people celebrate Christmas. It is a fun and exciting time for presents, Christmas Trees and parties. But most people don't stop to think about what it is that we are celebrating. It is the birthday of one of the Great Teachers from God - Jesus Christ.

Our calendar starts from the date that people thought He was born. So on New Years Day when we celebrate the New Year, it is celebrating how many years ago that Christ was born! Over 2000 years ago in the country of Israel, there was a very spiritual, kind and gentle young girl, her name was Mary. One day, an Angel came to Mary and told her she would give birth to the Savior of the World. Mary and her husband, Joseph, traveled by donkey to a town of Bethlehem, but it was too crowded with people for them to find a place to stay, they had to sleep in a shed with the animals. It was there that Jesus was born. There was a bright star that led many rich and poor people to the new born Savior. When they came to Him bringing gifts, it was the start of the custom of giving gifts at Christmas.

When Jesus was 33 years old, God told Him to start teaching the people the new lessons from God. This is when he became known as the "Christ". Christ taught the people to "Love one another" and if a person hurts you, to forgive them and still love them. Kind and gentle Christ spent His life helping the poor and sick, and showing them how to live.

With these Teachings from God, He brought new life and hope into the lives of the people in Israel, and to the people all over the world for centuries into the future. Great Civilizations were based on the teaching of Christ. Even to this day, there are millions of people who follow the Teachings of Love brought by Jesus Christ.

One of the things that Christ taught was that in the future, a Great Teacher would come from God who would bring the Kingdom of God to Earth, and because of this Great Teacher there would be Peace on Earth. This is a prayer that Jesus Christ revealed. ***"Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."***



Baha'u'llah

Baha'u'llah was born on November 12, 1817, in Persia (which is now the country of Iran). His father gave Him the name Mirza Husayn Ali. Later the Bab gave Him the title of Baha'u'llah, the Glory of God. Baha'u'llah's father was a Nobleman, a Minister in the court of the Shah (king) and the family was very wealthy. Baha'u'llah's father was very proud and happy when Baha'u'llah was born, and was told by a wise man that Baha'u'llah would be a wondrous leader of the world. Baha'u'llah was not sent to any school. But even as a small child He surprised everyone with His great wisdom and knowledge given to Him by God.

One day when Baha'u'llah was still a small boy, He attended his brother's wedding. At the wedding was a puppet show. The puppet show had a King holding court with his nobles. A thief was brought in, judged and executed. There was a war, and the soldiers went out to fight. At the end of the puppet show, the puppet master came out carrying a large box. Baha'u'llah asked the man what was in the box. The puppet master explained that the King and all the ministers and armies were all in that box. Baha'u'llah has told us that from that day, He knew that all the world, with its pomp and glory had no more value than children's playthings, like the puppets in that box,

Baha'u'llah understood from the time He was a child, what was important in life. As an adult, even though He came from a wealthy, important family, He spent His days helping the poor and healing the sick, and taking care of everyone around Him.

During that time many people started following the teachings of a new Messenger from God, called, the Bab. Baha'u'llah taught everyone rich and poor alike, that The Babs teachings were from God. When the Bab was killed, 20,000 of The Bab's followers were killed or imprisoned. Baha'u'llah was thrown into Tehran's Black Pit called the Siyah-Chal. While he was there God told Him that He was the next Manifestation of God to guide mankind to the Most Great Peace.

After He was released from the Siyah-Chal, He was exiled to

Baghdad, which is in the country now known as Iraq. In 1863 in the Garden of Ridvan outside of Baghdad Baha'u'llah announced to His friends and family what God had told him in the Black Pit.

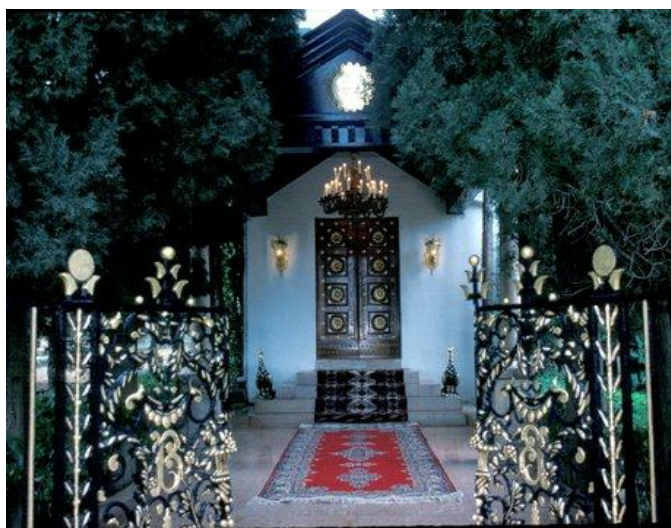
Finally, Baha'u'llah and His family were sent to the Prison City of Akka in Israel, from there His Light shown brightly as His teachings spread to every corner of the world. He sent messages of Peace to the rulers all around the world. People from all over the world would come and visit this Prisoner.

Baha'u'llah passed away on May 28, 1892, but His teachings of love and unity have spread from Israel to all the corners of the world.

God has never left man alone. Always He sends teachers into the world. Baha'u'llah, like Christ and Buddha, is a perfect polished mirror, reflecting the light of God to guide the peoples of the world on the path of peace, love, and unity. There are people who follow the teachings of Baha'u'llah in every country of the world. And these people, the Baha'is, are working hard every day to bring these teachings of love and unity to all the people of the world.

“We desire but the good of the world and the happiness of the nations? That all nations should become one in faith and all men as brothers; that all bonds of affection and unity between the sons of men should be strengthened; that diversity of religion should cease and differences of race be annulled”

“So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole world.”





QUIZ

1. Who was born first, Christ, Baha'u'llah or Buddha?

2. What continent were all these Manifestations of God from?

3. What are the three things we can look for to recognize a Manifestations of God?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) _____

4. Who is the most recent Manifestation of God?

5. What are some of the things that all of these Manifestations of God taught people to do.
 - a) _____ b) _____ c) _____ d) _____

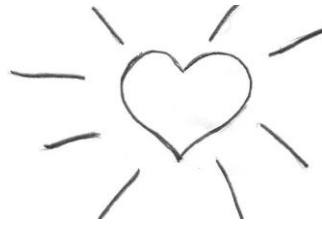
6. Whose birthday do we celebrate at Christmas?

7. Whose birthday do we celebrate during the Flower Festival?

8. Buddha, Christ and Baha'u'llah all are like perfect polished mirrors, what do They reflect? (What can you see when you look into those Mirrors?)



DID YOU GET 100 %???



Love

From our first moments we can understand the love in our mother and father's eyes. The love of a parent towards a child is the most magical thing. It has the ability to change the hardest of people into the most loving. Without love, truly, there would be no mankind. So in that sense, love is the foundation of all mankind.

God's greatest gift to us is our ability to love. Love of humanity means peace and harmony. The lack of love causes war and hatred.

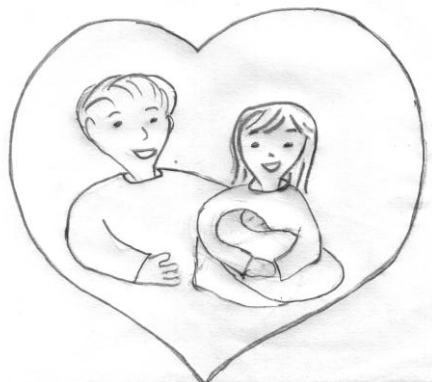
Love of religion means the love of all Gods creatures, no matter how a person views God. Failure to love all God's creatures has caused death and destruction from the beginning of time.

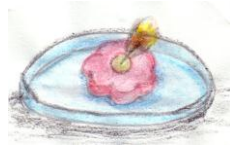
Love of the earth is the cherishing and taking care of that which God hath given us. We can now see what terrible things that can happen to the earth because of that lack of love.

Above are only three views of love. We could write books on all that love means, for each person has their own ideas as to what love is. The one sure thing we do know is that without love, we could not survive.

Perhaps it is best to quote the Master, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, from Paris Talks, on what love means:

“Love is unlimited, boundless, infinite! Material things are limited, circumscribed, finite. You cannot adequately express infinite love by limited means.”





Candle Making

Materials

- ☺ Crayons
- ☺ Candles
- ☺ Lighter
- ☺ Bottled Scent
- Plastic Molds for Chocolates (flowers and hearts from 100 yen shop)
- ☺ String

How to Make

1. Poke a hole in each plastic mold. Pass a small piece of string through it, sticking out on both ends (the candles wick).
2. Light a candle and drip it onto the crayon over the plastic mold, stirring with the crayon occasionally.
3. Add any scent that you like.

For more colorful flowers and hearts, you can use different colored crayons in layers.

When cool, pop the colorful heart and flower candles out of the molds.

※Be careful to never light a candle, unless there is a grownup around.



Hello Minna!



Tokyo Children's Class

**Kumamoto
Children's Class,
Swinging after class!**



**Fukuoka's
Children's Class**

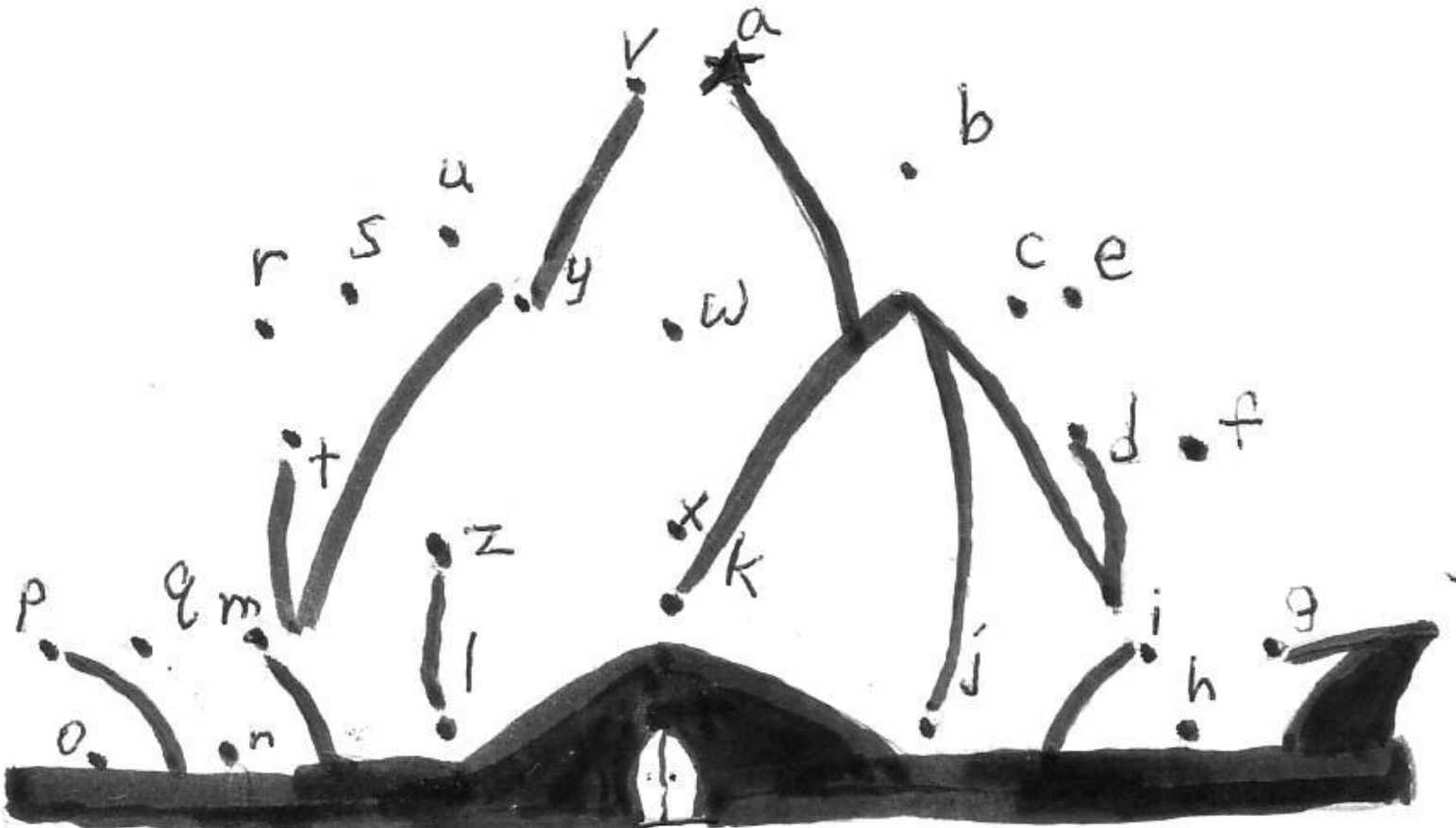


Fun Page

a to bb to c.....

follow the dots,

and what can you see?



Parent's Page

With the world shrinking to a neighborhood it has become increasingly important that the children of the world learn to live in love and fellowship.

Hatred and distrust for other religions or races is not something that comes naturally. It is learned in childhood. We as adults, must be careful not to teach our children to distrust people of other religions, cultures, or minority groups by the way we act or think of them, ourselves.

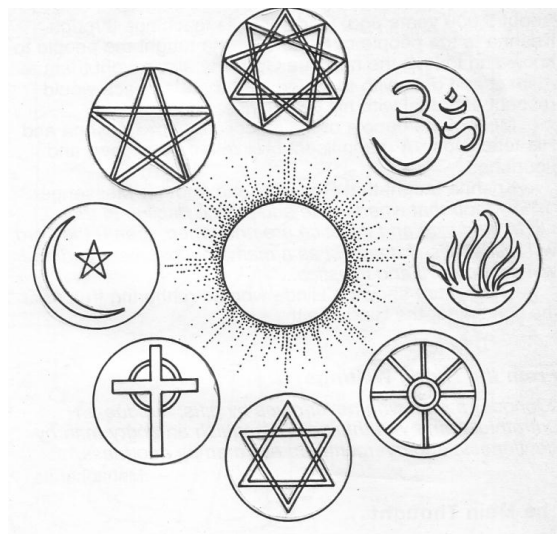
Baha'u'llah has given us these words of inspiration.

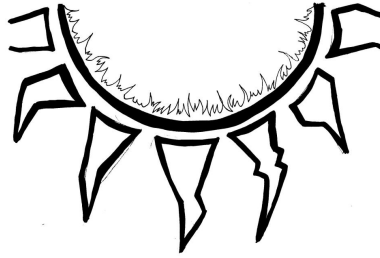
“There can be no doubt whatever that the peoples of the world, of whatever race or religion, derive their inspiration from one heavenly Source, and are the subjects of one God.”

“Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship.”

“The fundamental purpose animating the Faith of God and His Religion is to safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race...”

Let us teach our children to be respectful towards all the religions and peoples of the world. We can follow the example of Abdul’Baha who looked on everyone as a friend, and helped anyone who needed it regardless of race, nationality or religion.





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. Please send all stories and pictures to hirahara@rainbow.plala.or.jp

Hiru no Hoshi

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

Published: Qudrat 164 BE / Nov. 2007

No. 231

Hiru no Hoshi Committee: Rie Mactier, Seishi Hirahara, Luana Hirahara

Contributors: Mayumi Toribe, Michiyo Sakemi, Daryl Maude, Luana

Hirahara, Marife Yazdani, Travis Mactier

Translators: Kazuko Bray, Rie Mactier

Photographs: Yuki Shibata, Rie Mactier, Luana Hirahara

Supervisor: Yuichi Hirano