

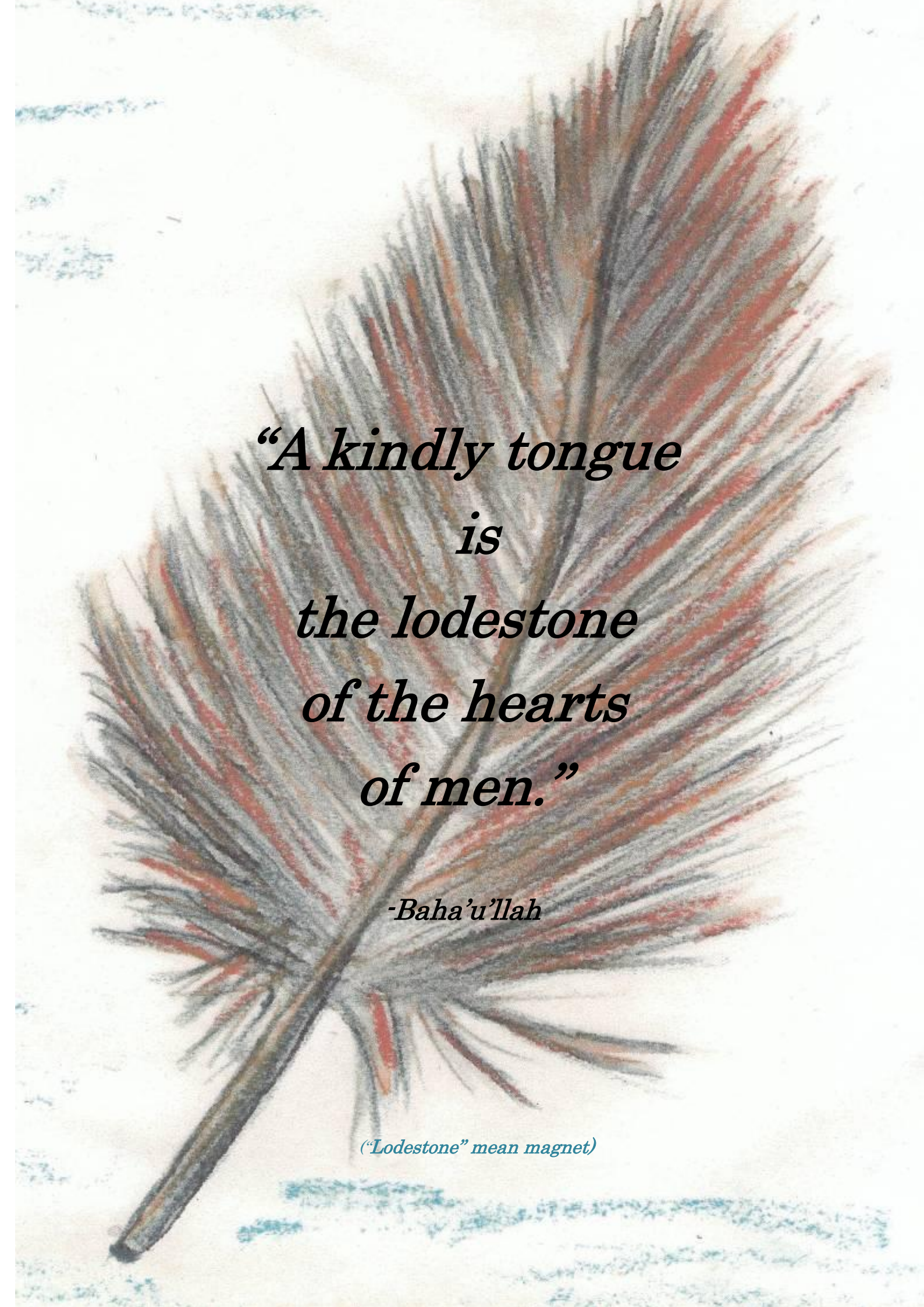


Hiru no Hoshi

No. 239

Contents

2. Words of Abdul-Baha
3. Okinawan children
7. Quiz
8. Art Activity
9. Coloring Page
10. Photos
12. Everyone's Art
13. Parents' Page



*“A kindly tongue
is
the lodestone
of the hearts
of men.”*

-Baha'u'llah

(“Lodestone” mean magnet)



Kindly Tongue

A terrible scream rang through the house.... Mother dropped what she was doing in the kitchen and ran to the bedroom. There she found Shahla on top of Riaz, trying to scratch him, as he held both of her hands away from his face. Shahla, surprisingly, was the one doing the screaming, while Riaz and Asma laughed at her. Mona was trying to pull Shahla off Riaz, and little Anisa sat on the bed crying. With the entrance of Mother everyone fell silent, except Anisa who was still crying.

“Anisa! What?” cried Mother. Anisa sobbed, “Shally and Riri are hurting each other!”

“Their fine, Anisa,” said Mona putting her arms around Anisa.

“Now, what is the problem here?” asked Mother. Shahla was the first to speak up.

“Riaz called me a ‘freckle face freak’ and said my curly hair looked like a clown’s hair.” Riaz laughed and said, “so she tried to claw my face off with her fingernails!”

Mother sighed, and took Shahla on her lap. “Shahla, your nails are not for scratching people! Riaz still has marks on his face from the last time you scratched him! Use your words to tell Riaz how much his words hurt you.”

“But Mommy!” Shahla answered, wiping the tears from her red face, “He won’t stop teasing no matter what I say and it makes me sooooo mad!”

“Yes, I know,” said Mother. “Riaz, your words can hurt as much, if not more, than Shahla’s nails! ‘Abdul-Baha told us it is better to never have been born than to offend any soul. He would never let any of the Friends say anything that would hurt the feelings of anyone. And Baha’u’llah said that, ‘A kindly tongue is the lodestone of the hearts of men.’”

“What does lodestone mean, anyway?” asked Asma.

“Lodestone means magnet,” answered Mother. “It means that if you have a kindly tongue people will like you, and want to be near you. I know a story about a Kindly Tongue, would you guys like to hear it?”

“Yes!” they all shouted, and gathered around, they loved stories.

“Well,” began Mother, “Once there were 2 sisters. One of them had a

kindly tongue, and was always saying sweet and nice things to everyone and was always very courteous and polite. The other sister was the opposite. She always said rude and hateful, and teasing things to everyone.”

“Sounds just like Riaz,” comment Mona.

“Now, Mona, that is not using a kindly tongue either, is it,” scolded Mother. Mother continued with the story.

“One day the sister with the kindly tongue went to the well to get some water. There she saw a stranger sitting by the well. She politely greeted the old woman. The old woman asked her, to please bring up some water from the well, so she could have a drink. The girl courteously



agreed, and brought up the water, handing a cupful to the woman. As the girl was leaving, the old woman thanked her for her courtesy and told her that as a reward, whenever the girl spoke, beautiful, wonderful, and

valuable things would spill out of her mouth. The girl thanked her sweetly for her good wishes, and sure enough, a beautiful red, ruby fell out of her mouth. She was so surprised she ran home to tell her mother and sister what had happened. And as she kindly and sweetly spoke of the old woman and her gift, beautiful flowers and gems and brilliantly colored butterflies flew out of her mouth. The



other sister was so jealous, she immediately ran to the well, and when she saw the stranger, she called, ‘Hey! You! Give me that gift you gave my sister!’ The old woman turned her head and pretended not to hear the rude girl. ‘Hey! Granny! Hey! Do your magic on me. It’s not fair you only did it for my sister. I want it too!’

Here, Mother paused. “What do you think the old woman did?”

Riaz jumped up, “Turned her into a frog!” he shouted. Everyone laughed.

“Well, no,” said Mother, “but something like, that. With the next rude word the girl spoke, a cockroach crawled out of her mouth. The girl screamed, and spit, and started saying some very bad words, and as she did, a worm, then a centipede and then a beetle crawled out of her mouth. The girl ran home crying. From that time on, whenever she said



something rude or unkind, or told a lie, something vile would fly out of her mouth.

“So I guess she just stopped talking” said Asma.

As everyone laughed Mother said, “Well, let’s hope she learned to be



polite. And you know, backbiting, saying bad things about people that aren’t there, is the worst kind of an unkindly tongue. Baha’u’llah says ‘...backbiting quenches the light of the heart and extinguishes the life of the soul.’ That means it makes your heart dark and kills your soul. That is a very bad thing to happen. So only say good things about a person. Search to find some good thing to say about every single person.

Oh, I know one more story, about backbiting, are you too tired to hear it?”

“No! We are not too tired, tell it!” The children said, “.....PLEASE” added Anisa, who didn’t want cockroaches coming out of her mouth!



“Once there was a little girl who was always telling the bad things that people did. Gossiping, backbiting...One day, her grandmother who was visiting saw this and was very sad. She gave the little girl a bag of feathers and told her that all that day, every time she found herself saying something bad about someone, she was to blow a feather into the air. The little girl thought it sounded like fun, so she gladly took the bag of feathers outside. When she told her friend that her neighbor’s dog was noisy, she blew a feather into the air. When she told her other friend about the girl she was just talking to, having a very ugly dress on, she blew another feather into the air. All day whenever she said something unkind about someone that wasn’t there, she blew a feather into the air.

That night, she was embarrassed to show the grandmother that the bag was empty. ‘I guess I will need more feathers tomorrow’ she said. But the grandmother said, ‘No, tomorrow your job will be to go and find every single feather you blew away and put them back in the bag.’ ‘GRANDMOTHER’ shouted the girl. ‘That is impossible! The feathers have flown all over town by



now!’ The grandmother sadly shook her head and said, ‘and so have all the unkind words you have spoken. And they have done so much damage that it can never be repaired!’ So the little girl learned to be much more careful with how she used her tongue.”

“So”, Mother ended with, “All of you remember what Baha’u’llah said, “The tongue is for mentioning that which is good”.

Just then, Mona said, “Mom, is something burning?”

“Oh, no! The Dinner!” and Mother ran out of the room as the children laughed.





Quiz

1. What does “lodestone” mean?

2. Why is a kindly tongue like a magnet?

3. Why was Shahla so angry with Riaz?

4. In the first story, what happened to the sister with a kindly tongue?

5. What happened to the sister that did not have a kindly tongue?

6. In the second story, what was the little girl suppose to do with the bag of feathers?

7. What was she suppose to do with the feathers on the next day?

8. Why couldn't she get the feathers?

9. How are the feathers like backbiting?

10. What was our tongue made for?

How did you do? Did you get them all right?

The answers are on the Parents Page.



Kindly Tongue Art



Materials:

Kami nendo (paper clay)
Paint
Paint brush
Red Construction Paper
Glue

little bits of nice things (gems,
flowers, butterflies, etc.)
or creepy thing (cock roaches,
centipedes, worms, etc.)

Method:

Make a ball of Kaminendo (paper clay), pinch the middle part to make a nose. Indent where the eyes are. Use a pencil to mark the eyes and eyebrows. Get more clay for the ears and hair. Poke a big hole for the mouth, add lips.

While it dries a little, cut a long tongue out of the red construction paper.

Glue on little pieces of beautiful things, little flowers, gems, beautiful butterflies, etc.

(Boys may want to make the unkind tongue with cockroaches, snakes and spiders.)

Paint the face and hair.

After it dries glue the tongue in the mouth.

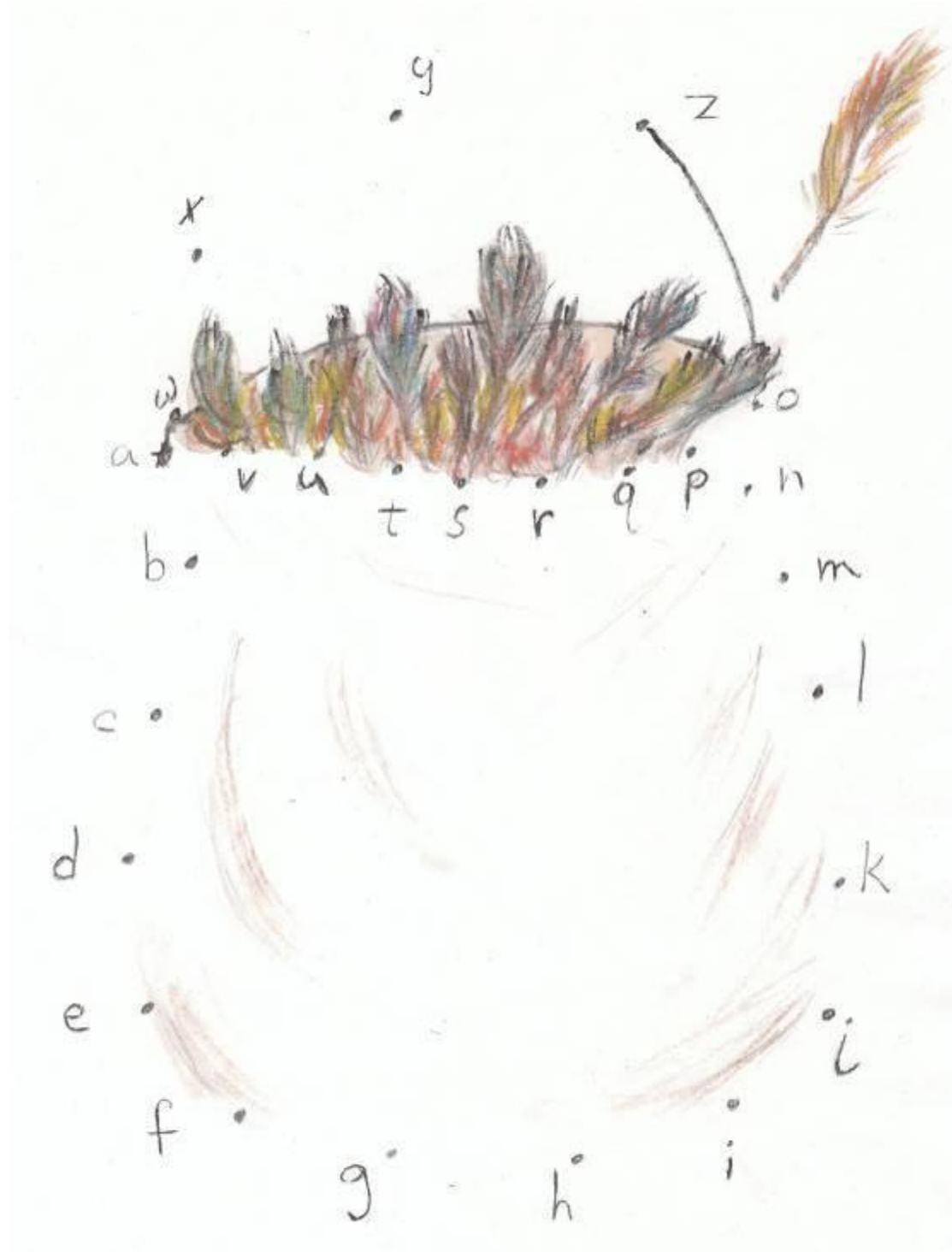
From a to b....

From b to c....

Follow the dots

and what do you see?

A bag of feathers for the little girl?



Photos





Everyone's Art



Parents Page

If we adults want the children around us to have sweet, kindly, truthful tongues, we must teach by our example. Children are the supreme recording devices; they speak just as the adults around them do. So we must constantly be on our guard to speak to our children and each other with respect and courtesy.

It is possible to correct a child's behavior using kindly words which can be far more effective than loud derisive words and tone of voice.

We also, must be careful that we never backbite or say unkind things about other people, especially adults that the children know. For the child would not only copy us, but worse, they would lose respect for that adult, be it parent, grandparent, teacher or leaders of our society.

Hand of the Cause of God Mr. Faizi once said that backbiting in front of a child would not only extinguish the light of that child's soul, but would forever separate him from attachment to the person being negatively spoken about, making it difficult for the child to ever trust that person or any other person.

“Backbiting quenqueth the light of the heart, and extinguishes the life of the soul.”

Baha'u'llah



Quiz Answers:

- 1) A lodestone is a magnet. 2) People will want to be near someone with a kindly tongue. 3) He had teased her.*
- 4) When she spoke precious gems and other beautiful things came out of her mouth. 5) When she said bad or rude things; cockroaches, spiders, worms and other creepy things came out of her mouth. 6) She was suppose to blow a feather into the air whenever she said something not nice about someone not there. 7) On the next day she was suppose to go and find each feather. 8) All the feathers had blown far away. 9) Feathers are like backbiting because when we said unkind things about someone the words spread out through the world and can never be unsaid.*
- 10) The tongue was made for speaking that which is good.*



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 hirunohoshi@gmail.com or vb7mb7@bma.biglobe.ne.jp

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<http://www.bahaijpn.com/daystar.htm>

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