



# Hiru no Hoshi

No. 240

## Contents

2. Words of Baha'u'llah
3. Heroic Deeds
6. Quiz
7. Coloring Page
8. Japanese Scroll
10. Children's Classes
11. Around the World
12. Parents' Page



***“The betterment  
of the world can  
be accomplished  
through pure and  
goodly deeds,  
through  
commendable and  
seemly conduct.”***

***-Baha u llah***



It was bedtime, and mother was tucking the little ones into bed. After they had each said their prayer, Mother read this quote from Baha'u'llah, ***“The betterment of the world can be accomplished through pure and goodly deeds, through commendable and seemly conduct.”***

“What does that mean, Mommy?” asked little Anisa, as she hugged her stuffed bear close to her.

“That is a very good question Anisa, what does that mean guys?” Mother asked in return.

“Well”, said Shahla, “I think, ‘betterment’ means making better...so it must mean the world can be made better, if people do good and kind stuff.....ahhh, the rest....I don’t know.”

“That is exactly right Shahla, good job!” What about the second half, boys? What does ‘through commendable and seemly conduct’ mean?”

“Yeah, Shahla took the easy part and you give us the hard stuff!” fussed Riaz. Riaz looked at Asma, Asma looked at Mona and Mona shrugged her shoulders.

Mother smiled and said, “It means doing things that are worthy of praise, and doing the right thing. So, in easy words, the world can become a better place if people act good and kindly. Baha'u'llah is telling us that each one of us has a very great power. We each have the power to change the world into a better place, if we do kind and good deeds. So, we can all be like a hero.”



“Like Superman!”, shouted Riaz.

“Or Spiderman, or Batman, or Dragonball Z!” said Asma.

“Or Anpanman!” yelled Anisa, jumping up and down on the bed. With that everyone laughed.

“Yes, all of them helped people, didn’t they.” said Mother. “Now, think hard about this. What do you think those hero’s felt, so that they wanted to help people. Were they just thinking about themselves? Were they trying to become famous or rich?”

“No, Mom!” everyone protested at once, “They are good guys!”

“Superman is always thinking about Justice!” Said Asma, “And Spiderman and Batman too. They don’t want bad guys to hurt people.”

“Yes,” said Shahla, “they were all, kind and brave.”



“So they thought of other people before themselves, didn’t they,” said Mother, “that’s what ‘pure and goodly deeds, and commendable and seemly conduct’ mean.”

“But Mom, really”, put in practical Mona. “Superman, Spiderman, Anpanman! Those are all pretend people. Baha’u’llah wasn’t talking about them, right?”

“That’s right, Mona,” said Mother. “Baha’u’llah was talking about Asma!” Asma got a surprised look on his face. “...and Riaz, and you and Shahla and me and Daddy, and even little Anisa! Baha’u’llah was talking about every single person that lives on this earth. Every time any of us do, or say, or even think, something kind and good and unselfish, it helps the whole world.” “Think something?” asked Shahla. “How can just thinking something help the world?”

Mother smiled, “Abdul’-Baha said *‘When a thought of war comes, oppose it by a stronger thought of peace. A thought of hatred must be destroyed by a more powerful thought of love.’* So we can help people stop hating, and even help put an end to war, by just thinking peaceful, loving thoughts, that’s how powerful we are! So, by doing or saying or even thinking good things, each one of us becomes a “Hero”.

“Would you like to hear a true story of olden day Japan where some ordinary fisherman became heroes?” asked Mother.

“Fisherman?” asked Riaz . “That doesn’t sound very exciting.”

“It has Samari, and swords and killing, in it too,” said Mother.

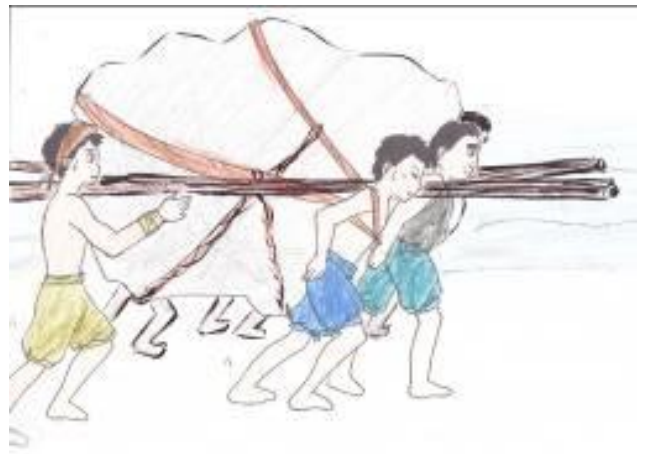
“Yeah!” Shouted all the children.” And mother began.

“In old Japan, on the Northern part of the island of Kyushu, were 2 little villages. One had a nice long beach for the fisherman to pull their boats in and out of the water for fishing. The other village, next to it, had only rocks along the shore. There was no sandy beach to take their boats in and out of the water, so it was very difficult for the men to go fishing. This village became poorer and poorer. The people were starving because the men couldn’t put their boats into the water to go and catch fish.

One day, 6 men decided to do something about it. They waited until the big, important Samarai, who was the ruler of the villages came by. The men fell on their knees in front of him and begged the Samarai to extend the beach of their village, so that they would have a place to put their boats into the ocean. Now in those days, it was very dangerous to do what these fisherman did. They knew that to talk to a Samarai directly mean certain



death. But the Samarai did not kill them immediately. He listened to their plea, and was impressed with their bravery. He pointed to a very big rock sitting on edge of the beach. He told them he would give their village the beach to as far as they could carry that huge boulder. So the men



dug up the boulder and using ropes and poles and harnesses, fixed a way to carry that boulder. On the day when they were to start, all the people from both villages gathered to see how much beach the men would win for their village....and how much beach the other village would lose. The Samarai sat in the shade with his long sword. The men heaved the boulder on to their shoulders and slowly started carrying the boulder down the beach. The people from their village cheered. While the people from the other village started yelling and complaining to the Samarai. The men kept walking slowly, carrying the huge boulder, and it looked like they were going to walk all the way through the other village's beach. So, to keep peace in the other village, the Samarai walked up to where the men were struggling so hard to carry the boulder. Then, pulling out his sword, he cut the ropes, making the boulder crash to the ground.

The village was saved! They had a nice long beach so all of their fisherman could put their boats in the water and catch all the fish the village needed.

Sadly, though, the brave men who carried the boulder, were put to death, as was the rule of the land, when village people dare to speak to a Samarai. The men died happily knowing that their village was safe.

Even to this day, in Fukuoka Prefecture, in Tsuyazaki, at Shirahama Beach, you can see that boulder, and the shrine built for those 6 brave, unselfish fishermen who gave their lives for their village.”

As Mother finished the story, she looked at her children and said, “So, what did you think of that story?”

“Great!” Shouted the boys,

“Depressing,” said Mona, as Shahla nodded in agreement.

“Well, what I wanted to impress upon you, is that anyone can do heroic deeds. Not just Superman...”





“or Anpanman!”, shouted Anisa, not wanting to be left out.

Mother smiled and continued. “The most important thing is pure motives, to forget about yourself and think about others, then wisely consider what is the right and good thing to do for that person, even if you don’t know them at all.”

So, I am waiting to see all the wonderful and heroic things, each one of you do, throughout your lives, making the world a better and better place. And I will always be cheering you on, even if I am on the other side of the world, or watching from the next world.”

And with that she gave each one of her little munchkins a kiss goodnight.





## Quiz

1. How can each of us change the world?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What can we do to be like a hero?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Where did the fisherman in the story come from?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did the fisherman ask the Samarai for?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did the Samarai say the fisherman had to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What happened to the fisherman when they were finished with their task?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Did the village get a longer sandier beach?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Did the children like the story?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What did mother say was the most important thing to have when we do good and kindly deeds?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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



The answers are on the Parents Page.

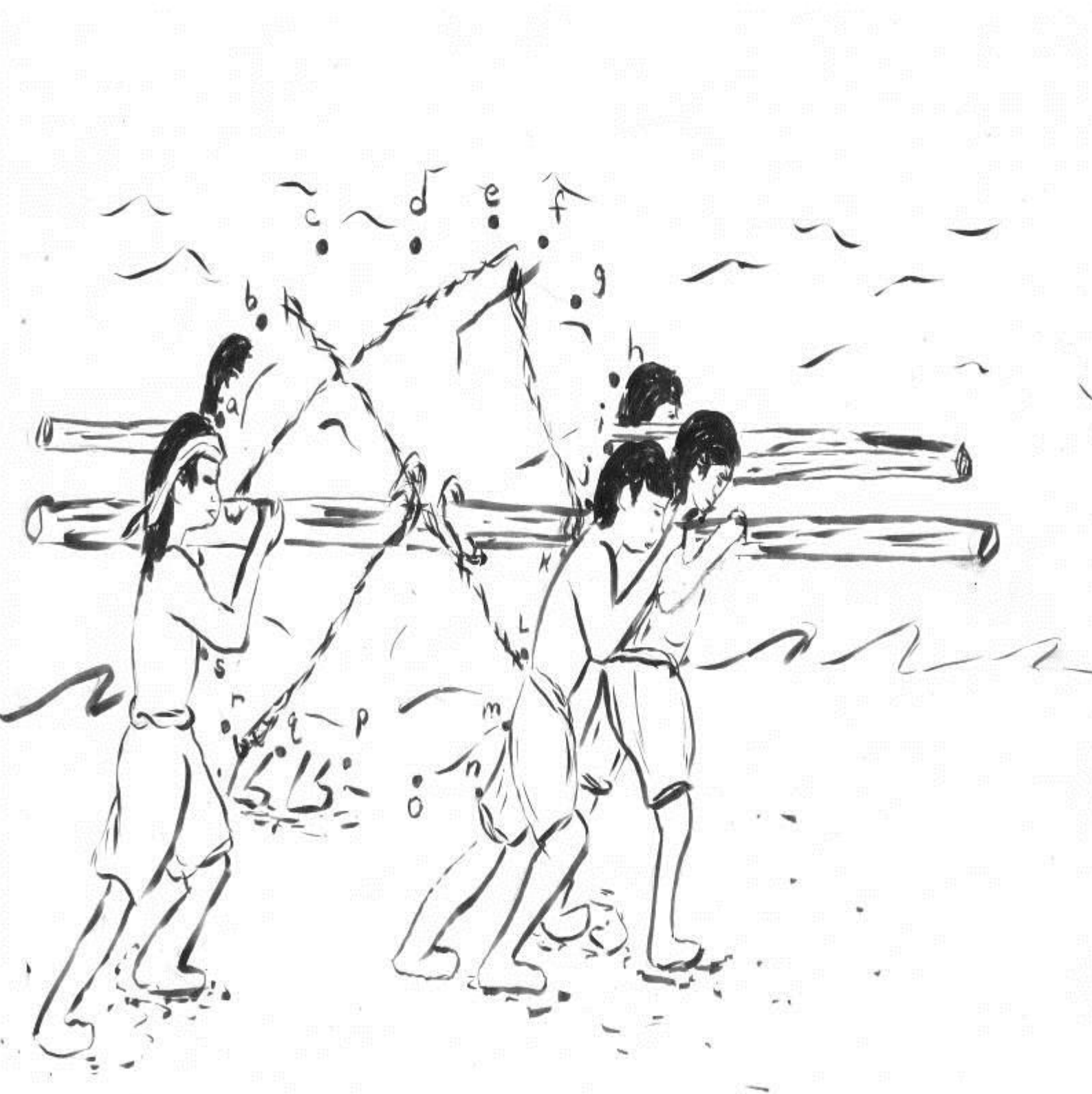
From a to b....

From b to c....

Follow the dots

and what do you see?

The boulder the men carried?







## Japanese Scroll

### Material

- \*Handmade paper or Japanese Washi,  
And another color for the border strips.
- \*2 sticks a little longer than the paper
- \*Dried flowers or leaves
- \*Yarn or rope for the ties
- \*Tissue (2ply tissue pulled apart)
- \*The Quote on the next page
- \*White glue
- \*Large paintbrush

### Method

- \*Print and cut out the quote on the the next page...(it is “The betterment of the world...” quote in Japanese.)
- \*Glue the quote on the handmade paper
- \*Glue the dried flowers and leaves on the paper
- \*Separate the 2ply tissue into 2 thin pieces and lay on top of the quote and the flowers covering everything completely.
- \*Add water to the glue to make it thin,
- \*Paint the watery glue over the tissues completely.
- \*Fold border strips over sticks and glue one edge of the border to the front of the paper and one edge to the back of the paper.
- \*Tie yarn or rope on to the ends of the sticks and

fray the end to make tassels.

When the glue dries hang up your Japanese Scroll

Memorize the quote so that you can tell everyone what the Japanese Scroll says and means.

世の改善は、清らかで

之旅を行為と、称賛に値する

礼儀にかなった行動を通して

達成できる。

バハオラ

# Children's Classes in Japan

## Fukuoka



## Yamaguchi



## Children's Classes



# Around the World

## Chicago



## Guam's Graduating Class





## Parents Page

***“The betterment of the world can be accomplished through pure and goodly deeds, through commendable and seemly conduct”*** is the first quote of the first book of the Ruhi Institute Books. It is one of the most important quotes we can memorize and teach our children. We need to teach them that their good actions, have the power to make the world a better place; that no matter how bad the situation around them is, they can make it better. In the words of Abdul-Baha; ***“When a thought of war comes, oppose it by a stronger thought of peace. A thought of hatred must be destroyed by a more powerful thought of love.”*** Loving and unprejudiced thoughts, have a positive effect on the world around us. This encourages hopefulness and strength. Child Psychologists will tell you that children need a feeling of self worth. To realize that they have the power to change the world around them for the better, is very healthy for them.

Also by Abdul’-Baha, ***“Let your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your path.”*** We should teach our children that their good deeds, and good thoughts, should not be reserved for just those people who are their family or friends or countryman, but for every person in the world. We must teach them to love everyone no matter what color their skin is, or what language and culture they have.

If children grow up with these values they become healthier and happier adults, and they grow up in a healthier and happier world.



**Quiz Answers:** 1)By having good and kindly deeds. 2)Have good and kindly deeds and help everyone.  
3)Northern Kyushu in Japan. 4)A part of the beach that was not rocky so their village could put their boats in the sea. 5)Carry a big boulder as far as they wanted the beach. 6)They were put to death. 7)Yes. 8)The boys did, the girls thought it was depressing. 9)Pure motives, to think what the other person needs and help them, instead of thinking about what reward you will get.





*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](mailto:hirunohoshi@gmail.com) or [vb7mb7@bma.biglobe.ne.jp](mailto:vb7mb7@bma.biglobe.ne.jp)*

## ***Hiru no Hoshi***

**Published:** / December 2009

**No. 240**

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

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