

# Hiru no Hoshi

No. 244

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# ONE NESS

*"It is your duty  
to be exceedingly  
kind  
to every human being  
and  
to wish him well...  
until ye change  
the world of man  
into  
the world of God."*

O Son of Being! Love Me  
that I may love thee. If  
thou lovest Me not, My love  
can in no wise reach thee. Know  
Thou a servant. BAKYILLI

*Abdu' l-Baha*

## Service

The five little children were at the Home for the Elderly that was run by a friend of their parents. They were there to put on a puppet show for the grandmas and grandpas who lived there. It was a play about puppets of different colors in a village, learning how to live together in friendship no matter what their color was. The children had been practicing hard all week, and the week before that they had enjoyed making all of the puppets out of red, blue, yellow and purple yarn.



They were standing beside the stage getting ready to go on when suddenly little Anisa said, “I changed my mind; I don’t want to go out there in front of everybody.” And she threw down her puppet, and looked like she was going to cry.

“O brother! Here we go!” yelled Riaz as he clapped his hand over his eyes. Mother went over and put her arms around Anisa and asked her what the matter was.

“What if I make a mistake?” she said in a small voice.

“Everyone will laugh at you and think you are so, so cute!” yelled Riaz (yelling was his usual voice.)

“You’re not helping Riaz” scolded Mona.

“Anisa chan, why do you think we are here doing this puppet show?” asked Mother.

“I dun-no.” said Anisa, looking down and wiping the tears from her eyes.

“To make the grandmas and grandpas out there happy; to help them so they won’t be so lonely.” explained Mother. “We are not doing it for us, we are doing it for them. That is what is called Service, it is really just like prayer.” continued Mother.

“So even if we make a mistake, and they laugh, that will make them happy, and we will have succeeded.” teased Shahla. All the children laughed at that and even Anisa gave a little giggle.







“You know, said Mother, “Abdul-Baha spent His whole life serving others and trying to make everyone around Him happy.

“Yeah, don’t you want to be like Abdul-Baha, Anisa?” asked Asma.

Anisa nodded her little head “Yes.” “Did Abdul-Baha do a puppet show too?” she asked.

Mother smiled. “Abdul-Baha traveled all over the world, to nine different countries on three continents to serve people in many different ways”

“Yeah, yeah, yeah!” said Riaz, “but we really don’t have time to hear all about that now, they are calling for us up on the stage!!” said Riaz jumping up and down.

“Ok” said Mother, “Let’s go out there and do our best to make all the people watching very happy, and tonight after prayers I will tell you some really nice stories about how Abdul-Baha served people all over the world.”

“Ok.” smiled Anisa. She picked up her puppet, it was the purple one, and the five little children marched out onto the stage.

There were many smiles and tears on the faces of the men and women in the audience as they watched the puppet show; perhaps they were remembering their own dear children and grandchildren.

To be continued next issue....



(the beautiful painting of Abdul-Baha were done by Steve Pascal [www.stephenpaschal.com](http://www.stephenpaschal.com) )

## What is Christmas?

Shahla came in from school on a cold December afternoon, with a very sad look on her face. Mother was cooking dinner and little Anisa was playing with her dolls on the floor while the older children sat at the dining room table doing their homework.



“What’s the matter, Shahla?” asked Mona looking up from her book.

“Where’s our Christmas tree? Where’s our presents?” she asked angrily.

Riaz laughed, “Good luck with this subject, Shahla!”

Asma put in, “Well, Riaz, I remember when you were in kindergarten when we lived on Guam, you got a Christmas present and none of us did!”

“Yes, I remember!” said Mona. “You insisted on putting up a little Christmas stocking because you said your teacher had told you that if you did, Santa would put a present in it. We all laughed at you, but come Christmas day, you had a tiny toy in your little stocking!”

“Yeah,” said Asma, “We thought it was so unfair that we didn’t get anything, and Mom said it was the ‘rewards of Faith’, whatever that means!”

Anisa was very interested in this topic now. “Presents? Christmas Tree? What?”

Mother stopped what she was doing and came over to the children. “I guess it is time we talked about this....again!” she said, sighing.

“I know a lot of your friends have Christmas trees and presents,” Mother began.

“DUHHH!” put in Riaz, “All of them!”

“So, Riaz, please explain to Anisa what Christmas is,” said Mother.

Riaz shrugged his shoulders and said, “It is the birthday of Jesus Christ.”

“Yes, thank you, Riaz. Anisa, do you remember who Jesus Christ is?”

“Yes, He is a Great Teacher from God,” answered Anisa proudly.

“Good!” said Mother. “Christians, the followers of Christ, remember the day that Jesus was born every year at Christmas. People around the world even start the calendar from that date. Whatever year it is, that is how many years it has been since Christ was born. That is why it is called AD; which is Latin for ‘in the year of our Lord’. So, Christians give each other



presents to remember how God gave mankind the gift of this Great Teacher to teach Mankind about Love.”

“Sounds good to me, so why don’t we have presents at Christmas?” Shahla said “...and wait, what about the Christmas tree? What does that have to do with the birth of Christ?”

“Ha,” said Asma, “your logic is getting in the way of your greed for presents.”

Mother smiled. “Good question, Shahla!” “So, where was Christ born?” asked Mother.

“Israel,” Mona answered promptly.

“Yes, and have you seen photos of Israel? What does it look like there? Are there a lot of Christmas trees?”

“No, it’s a desert!” answered Mona.

“Yeah, just sand and small bushes,” said Asma.

“The Christmas tree idea came from Europe, where Christianity became very strong. It comes from an ancient religion before Christianity. Many trees shed their leaves in winter and look dead all winter long, and in spring they get green again, but the evergreen (Christmas tree) is green all year long. So, the evergreen symbolizes that God’s love for mankind is always fresh and alive. At the top of the Christmas tree, Christians put a star. That star symbolizes the star that the wise men followed. The wise men were followers of Zoroaster and had come from Persia looking for the Promised One. They followed the Star that had been prophesized in their Holy Book. They found Mary and Joseph...”

“Jesus’ parents,” put in Riaz.

Mother continued. “...and gave the baby Jesus gifts of gold, and other precious things.”

“So, Christians give presents under the Christmas tree!” finished Asma.

“OK, so, I repeat, Where are our Christmas tree? Where are our presents?” Shahla yelled.

Everyone laughed at that.

Mother smiled and went on to explain. “We do believe that Christ was a Manifestation of God, a Great Teacher from God. Who are some other Manifestations of God?”





“Buddha.....Moses....Zoroaster....Muhammad.....Abraham.....Baha’u’llah ...the Bab” the children, even Anisa, shouted the different names, all at the same time.

“Yes,” agreed Mother, “and do we have trees and presents for all of Their Birthdays?”

“That would be nice!” said Riaz.

“My allowance couldn’t afford that!” stated practical Asma.

“Nor mine!” agreed Mother. “Besides, the Day that we remember when each of these Manifestations of God came into the world is a Spiritual and Reverent time, we shouldn’t spoil it by thinking of ‘me, me, me, I want presents!’

“So,” finished Mother, “we should say prayers on Christmas Day, thanking God for giving us Christ and the other Manifestations of God, but we are not going to spoil it with presents for each other. Presents are for Ayyam- i-Ha. God gave us those four days, just for fun, and making those around us happy.”

“Told ya, Shahla!” said Riaz.

“Well, anyway,” said Mona, “Ayyam-i-Ha will be here soon, February 26th to March 1<sup>st</sup>. We get four days of Ayyam-i-Ha and there is only one Christmas Day every year!”



“Yeah! Ayyam-i-Ha!” shouted all the children.

Shahla sighed and took her books out of her bag and started doing her homework with the older children, as Mother went back to her cooking, and Anisa to her dolls.





## Quiz

1. What did Abdul-Baha say our duty was in the first quotation?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What should we change the world of man into?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In the first story where were the children and what were they about to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Whose birthday do we celebrate at Christmas?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Where was Christ born?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why do people give gifts at Christmas?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What does the star on top of the Christmas tree stand for?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How many years ago was Christ born? (Hint: What year will it be at New Year?)  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Name some Manifestations of God. (Great Teachers from God)  
\_\_\_\_\_

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



The answers are on the Parents' Page.

## How to Make Yarn Puppets For your own Puppet Show

### Material

- \*Yarn
- \*2 pieces of cardboard 1 large and 1 small (to wrap the yarn around to make the pompom head and body)
- \*Scissors
- \*2 small sticks (waribashi or popsicle sticks)
- \*3 long pieces of string or thick thread
- \*2 bits of black yarn or jiggly eyes)
- \*A bit of red yarn for the mouth

### Directions

Wrap the yarn around the smaller cardboard 100 or so times, the bigger the cardboard the more times it needs to be wrapped to back a pompom.

Tie a piece of yarn tightly around the inside on one end of the cardboard to make a fat bracelet of yarn.

Cut the end opposite of the tie to make a pompom. This will be the head.

Make a bigger pompom the same way using the larger cardboard.

Tie the 2 pompoms together with 2 long pieces of yarn for the body.

For the arms get 6 long pieces of yarn and braid using 2-ply strands until it is long enough to be both arms tied around the body.

For the legs get 9 longer pieces of yarn and braid 3-ply strands until it is long enough to be both legs tied to the bottom of the body (use 2 pieces of yarn that make up the body to tie the legs on).

Make a cross of the 2 sticks and tie together with yarn.

Tie the head on to the middle string and connect it to the intersection of the sticks. Tie the right arm and leg on to the right side of the stick and the left arm and leg on to the left side of the stick.

Add the eyes with onto the head, and the bit of red yarn (or red paper) for the mouth.

Hold the puppet with the stick that does not have the arms and legs tied to it, and make your puppet dance!

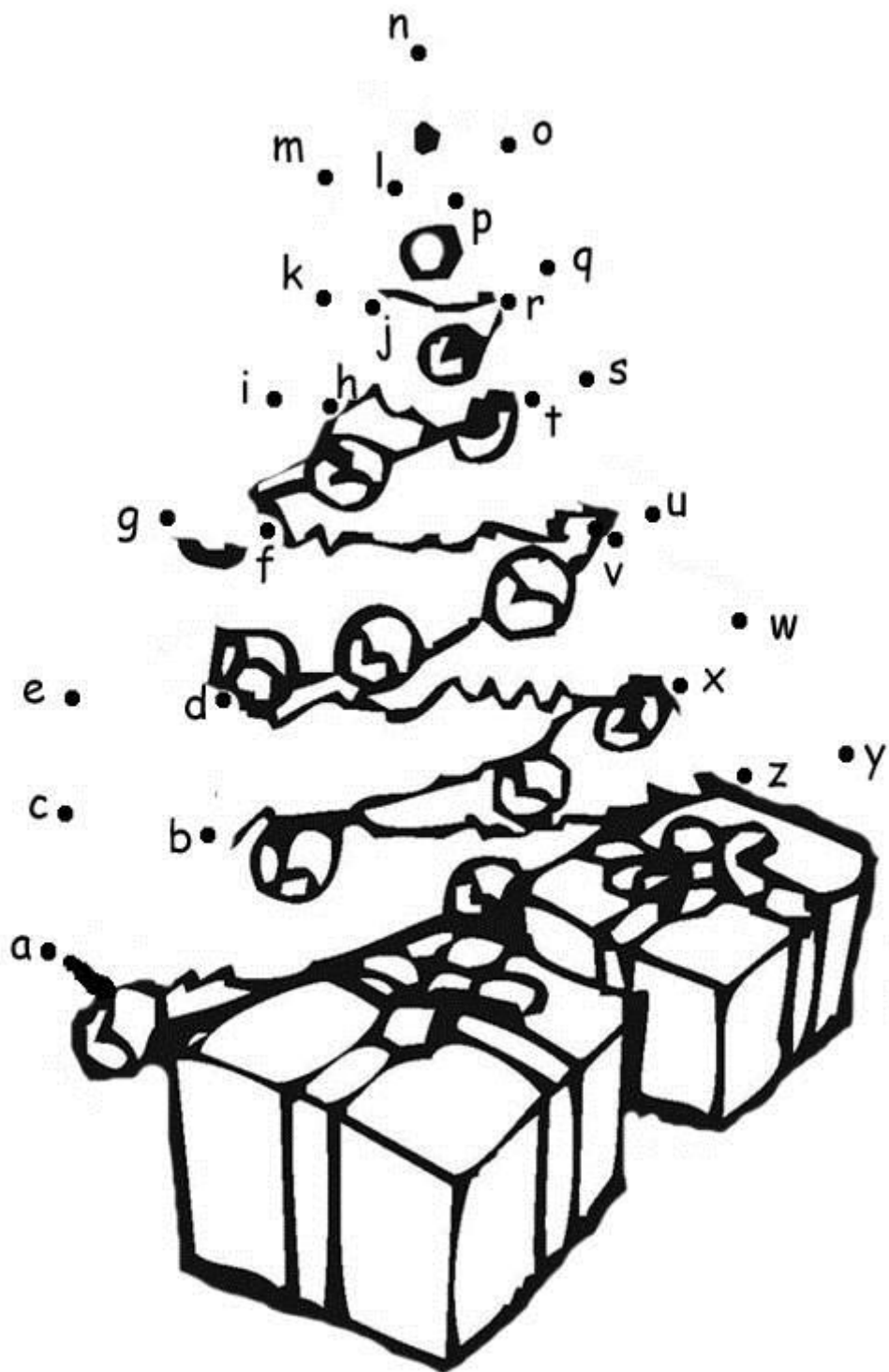


From a to b....

From b to c....

Follow the dots... and what do you see?

Draw a beautiful star at the top of the tree!





Photos







## Parents Page

This issue is dedicated to service. Baha'u'llah teaches us that the purpose of our life here on earth is to grow spiritually and to serve mankind. In fact this is the basic teaching of every religion. In the modern world people seem to have lost track of that. Let's teach our children that the reason they are studying so hard in school is so that they can learn how to better help people when they become adults, as doctors, teachers, farmers, etc. We can show our children how they can serve now, even when they are little, by encouraging them to help around the house and around the neighborhood.

Related to that idea, Christmas has become a multi-billion dollar business around the world, while the true meaning of praising God for sending Christ into the world has been forgotten.

If we want to celebrate Christmas with our children, let us make it meaningful. We should explain to them the story of the Christ child and what His birth meant to the world. And most importantly, that the Spirit of Christmas is the Spirit of Giving not Getting! Let's encourage our children to make and give presents to their family and friends; to think of others before themselves, to busy themselves with service to friend and strangers alike. *“Until we change the world of Man into the world of God.”*

**Answers to the Quiz** 1) To be exceeding kind to every human being and to wish him well. 2) Into the world of God. 3) They were at a home for the elderly and they were about to put on a Puppet Show. 4) 4) Jesus Christ. 5) Israel. 6) To remember how God gave the world, Christ. 7) The star that the Wise Men followed from Persia to find the Christ Child. 8) 2011 years ago. 9) Buddha, Christ, Moses, Abraham, The Bab, Baha'u'llah, Zoraster.



*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)*

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