




Hiru no Hoshi

No. 252

Contents

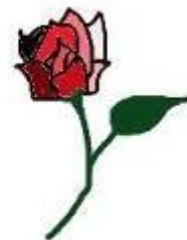
- 2..... Words of Baha'u'llah
- 3..... Tahiri, & Knowledge
- 8 Quiz
- 9..... Guided Meditation
- 10..... Art Project
- 11.....Dot to Dot
- 12.Photos
- 13.Parents' Page

A vibrant, textured landscape painting. In the background, there are snow-capped mountains under a blue sky. The middle ground features a lush green valley with a winding river that flows from the mountains down to the foreground. The foreground is filled with green grass and numerous cherry blossom trees in full bloom, with pink and red flowers. The overall style is impressionistic with visible brushstrokes and a rich color palette.

*“Exert every effort
to acquire the various
branches of knowledge
and
true understanding.*

*Strain every nerve
to achieve both material
and spiritual
accomplishments.”*

Abdul-Baha



The five little children had just finished prayers with Mother and Father.

“Ok, it’s almost time for bed, did everyone finish their homework?” asked Mother.

“I did!” Shahla jumped up and shouted.

“I’m done.” said Mona.

“Me too.” put in Asma.

Riaz sat there with an angry look on his face....so of course everyone turned to him.

Mother tilted her head and said, “Riaz, homework?”

“STUPID HOMEWORK! We have to waste the whole day at school sitting and sitting. Then we have to go home and study more!! What a waste of time!! I HATE school, I HATE homework! Why can’t we just have FUN!”

“Ok, Riaz, what would you rather be doing?” asked Mother.

This shocked Riaz, he was expecting to get yelled at.

“Ahhhh, playing video games, watching movies, playing ball, skateboarding, anything that’s fun!” answered Riaz.

“Well”, said Mother, “Someone who had a lot of knowledge of electronics had to make your video games, and an inventor had to create the technology for movies and ways that people can see them, and someone had to create the T.V. that allows you to use those things. Even the skateboard, and bat and ball, people had to have a lot of knowledge to create and produce those things with machines that had to be created and produced....In other words, gaining knowledge is important so that everyone in the world can have fun... and do the things they need to do. They obtained that knowledge from studying, Riaz!”

“So, ne,” put in Mona, looking around her, “just look at all the stuff around us that someone had to invent or build; the telephone, computer, fax machine....”

“Airplanes” said Asma, who wanted to be a pilot when he grew up.

“Refrigerators, ovens, running water!” said Shahla from the kitchen, she had just gone to get a drink of water.

“Hah! toilettes!” said Riaz, getting into the spirit of the discussion. “I would sure hate to use a pit toilet like at Grandpa’s house all my life!” With that all the kids laughed!

“There are two kinds of knowledge,” Mother continued. “physical and spiritual. The physical is everything you can see, hear, touch, smell, taste. The spiritual is everything you feel in your heart; love, compassion, mercy, justice, wisdom, forgiveness....We need to learn both kinds of knowledge.



“Where do you think the power to receive that knowledge comes from? People have an idea, but that idea had to come from somewhere. Our brains are like computers, that can process knowledge, but where does that knowledge come from?”

Baha’u’llah tells us that, *‘The source of all learning is the knowledge of God....’* the quotation goes on to say, *‘And this cannot be attained save through the knowledge of His Divine Manifestations.’* So, the physical kind of knowledge we think we

learn from books and study, and the spiritual kind, from the Manifestations of God. But really, all knowledge originally comes

from God, through His Manifestations. Then, we practice all that we have learned by playing and getting along with each other.”

Riaz stood up and stretched. “All those inventions were invented by men, so I guess, us guys have to study hard so you girls can have all the modern conveniences... what would you girls do without us!!”

With that all the girls yelled at Riaz. “Women are just as smart as men, aren’t they Mom?” shouted Mona, with Shahla and Anisa nodding.

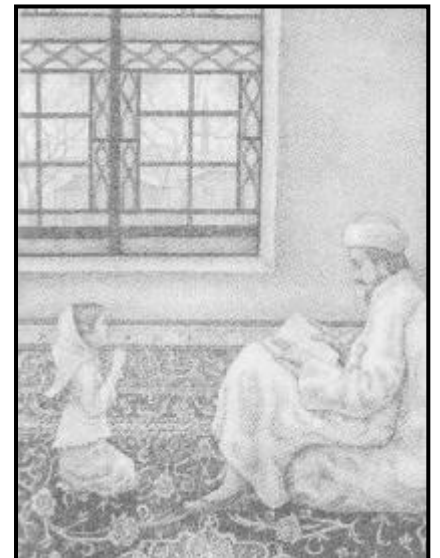
Mother smiled and said, “In the past women were not allowed to have as good an education as men. Most countries didn’t even want women to be able to read and write. They didn’t want them to be equal to men. But over 100 years ago, Baha’u’llah said that men and women were equal, and we had to educate the girls just as much, if not better, than the boys, because the women would become the first teachers of the next generation, their children.”

Then Mother said, “Do you guys want to hear a story about one of the first woman to raise the call of the equality of women, and the importance of girls being educated?”

“Yea!” said the children, they loved Mother’s stories.

So they all sat back down on the tatami floor, and Mother began.

“In Persia, almost 200 years ago, in 1817, a little girl was born. Her father was a Muslim priest, and he was famous for being very smart. As this little girl grew, her father saw how intelligent, kind and curious she was. He called her Zarrin-Taj, which means Crown of Gold. Because of her thirst for knowledge, even though it was against their custom, her father started to teach her to read and write, and about every kind of knowledge. When she grew up she heard about the Bab and became one of first followers of the Bab, the only woman to be one of the 19 Letters of the Living.



Then, at the conference of Badasht, Baha'u'llah gave her a new name, Tahirih, which means 'the Pure One'.

"Oh, I've heard about Tahirih," said Mona.

"Yeah, me too!" said Asma.

"Oh, so I don't have to finish the story then?" said Mother.

"Noooooo! Tell the story, please!!" said all of the children.

"Ok, ok," said Mother,

"Of course Tahirih learned that one of the teachings of this new Faith was the equality of men and women. And for all of her short life she worked

very, very hard, trying to teach all the women around her, everything she could. She knew that not until both wings of mankind, the men and the women, were educated, could mankind find peace and security."

"I remember! Tahirih threw off her veil and all the men were so shocked!" said Mona.

"Yeah, and one guy was so shocked, he ran out of the tent and cut his own throat!" yelled Riaz.

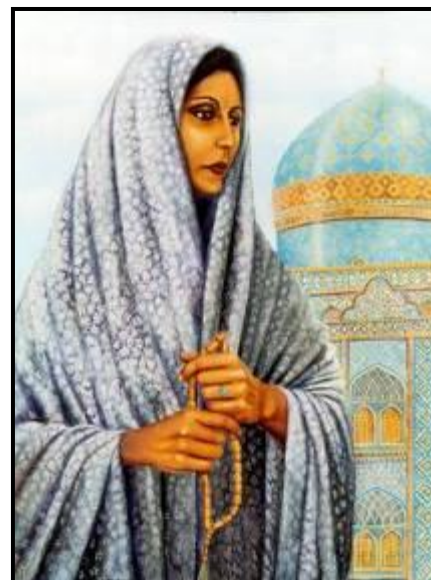
"What?, What happened?" said Anisa and Shahla, they hadn't heard that story before.

"OK, OK, let's back up a bit." said Mother, calming the children

down. "The Bab had been put into prison, and the Babis had all gathered at a garden like place called Badasht, to have a conference."

"Yeah, where Baha'u'llah gave Tahirih her new name!" said Mona, this was her favorite story.

"Yes," said Mother, and then she continued with the story. "Baha'u'llah was at the conference. He was the honored guest. Everyone was gathered in Baha'u'llah's tent one day, but only the men were there, because women weren't allowed in a gathering of men if they weren't behind a screen. A servant of Tahirih came in and told Quddus, the youngest and last Letter of the Living, that Tahirih wanted to see him. Quddus said he wouldn't come, he was busy. The servant left and came back and asked again. Quddus became angry, and refused again. When the servant said to either come with him to see Tahirih, or to kill him right then... Quddus (being very hot headed) pulled out his sword. At that moment Tahirih walked into the tent without her veil. All the men were so angry and frightened, because only a woman's family were allowed to see her face. They all thought she was the purest and holiest women in the world, and so, to do something considered so vulgar, as appear without her veil, was a real shock! And as





Riaz said, one man cut his own throat and ran out of the tent!

Tahirih, being the poetess that she was, started speaking so beautifully about this Promised Day. She ended her talk with a quotation from the Quran *'Verily, amid gardens and rivers shall the pious dwell in the*

seat of truth, in the presence of the potent King.' Then she said *'I am the Word which the Promised One is to speak, the Word which shall make the chiefs and the nobles of the earth afraid! The trumpet is sounding The great Trump is blown!'* She was saying that, she was the one, who was to tell everyone of the Promised One's teachings about the equality of men and women. The men at the conference didn't like that idea at all."

"But Baha'u'llah said it was OK right Mom?" said Shahla.

"Of course silly, He probably told her to do it!" shouted Riaz.

"I heard that once women become equal to men, then women won't allow their sons and husbands to go off to war all the time, right, Mom?" said Mona, she had learned that in children's class recently.

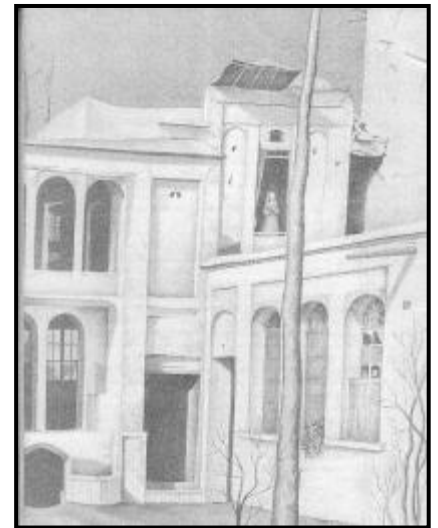
"That's what Abdul'Baha said," nodded Mother, and then she continued. "Tahirih became famous all over Persia and even some surrounding countries, for her knowledge and wisdom, and her beautiful poetry. Even the Shah (king) of Persia wanted her for a bride, but she refused him."

"Wow, she refused the King? That's gutsy!" said Asma, "It's a wonder they didn't cut her head off!"

"They did stupid!" said Riaz. He had heard about Tahirih in children's class too.

"Well not exactly." explained Mother. "The government and clergy tried very hard to keep her quiet, but she would just not give up. No matter where she was, she kept teaching women, and telling them they were just as smart, and should have the same chance to learn as men. So they decided to put her to death.

One night she knew they were coming to kill her, and she dressed in a beautiful white dress, as if she were going to her wedding. They came and took her away, and some drunken men strangled her with her own scarf and threw her body in a well. Before they killed her she said, *'You may kill me as soon as you like, but you can never stop the emancipation of women.'*





**YOU CAN KILL ME
AS SOON AS YOU LIKE
BUT YOU CANNOT STOP
THE EMANCIPATION OF
WOMEN**

~ TAHIRIH QURRATUL-`AYN

Artwork by Ivan Lloyd

Shiva Khastar 8/15/2012

“What does ‘pancipation’ mean Mommy?” asked little Anisa.

Mother smiled and said, “I am glad you were listening Anisa; emancipation of women, means

freeing women from being held down. Up until then, women were kept from being free, because of a lack of education.

The people continued to remember Tahirih, to talk about her and love her. Her poems survived and are still famous around Persia, which is now Iran, and people all around the world still remember her as one of the first women to stand up for the rights of women.

“So, Riaz, and Shahla and Mona and Asma and Anisa.....you have an important job to do. Study as hard as you can, and learn as much as you can, so that you can invent amazing things, or have some brilliant new ideas and teach your own and other people’s children, wonderful things, that will help all mankind.”

“Long story short.....” put in Asma, “Riaz! GO DO YOUR HOMEWORK!”

With that, everyone laughed, even Riaz.

"Knowledge is one of the wondrous gifts of God. It is incumbent upon everyone to acquire it. Such arts and material means as are now manifest have been achieved by virtue of His knowledge and wisdom..." —Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh

The beautiful drawings in this story were done by Mary Jane Volkmann in South Africa.

The wonderful Paintings are by Ivan Lloyd © Ivan Lloyd

Tahirih

“Salutations be unto her, and praise. Holy be her dust, as the tiers of light come down from Heaven.”

Abdul-Baha



Quiz

1. Who hadn't finished their homework?

2. What are the two kinds of knowledge?

3. What is the source of all knowledge?

4. How is the only way we can get knowledge? (According to the quotation)?

5. How do we learn the physical kind of knowledge?

6. How do we learn the spiritual kind of knowledge?

7. Who was one of the first women to raise the call of the equality of women?

8. What country was she born in?

9. Who gave her the name she is known around the world as?

10. What did she say, just before they killed her?

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



RESPECT

Now it is time for us to take a special journey to help us remember what we have learned so far. First, let's prepare for our journey. Close your eyes and be still. Take a deep breath, hold it, and blow it out. Do it one more time. Squeeze your arms, and let them loose. Squeeze your legs, then let them loose.

Imagine we are in a park, sitting on a blanket with our feet on the cool grass. We lie down and see the clouds floating along above our heads. Some of the clouds are rough. Some are smooth. They look like pillows floating in the air. We know they are the same clouds that will float beyond us all the way over to our friends around the world.

We will send a message on the clouds. We will whisper words of kindness, sharing, helping to all our friends everywhere as the clouds float by. We will listen to you. We will treat you well, no matter where you are from, we say. All our good feelings will be sent to our friends tucked safely under the covers of the clouds.

We close our eyes and take a long nap, and when we wake, those same clouds have gone around the world and come back again with new messages from our friends. We hear your voice. We are glad you are a part of our human family. We respect you because we are a part of the human family, too. We are happy to know you and want to be with you.

What a beautiful day this is, because we share the clouds... we are sharing respect. Now we will open our eyes and will respectfully come back to our circle.

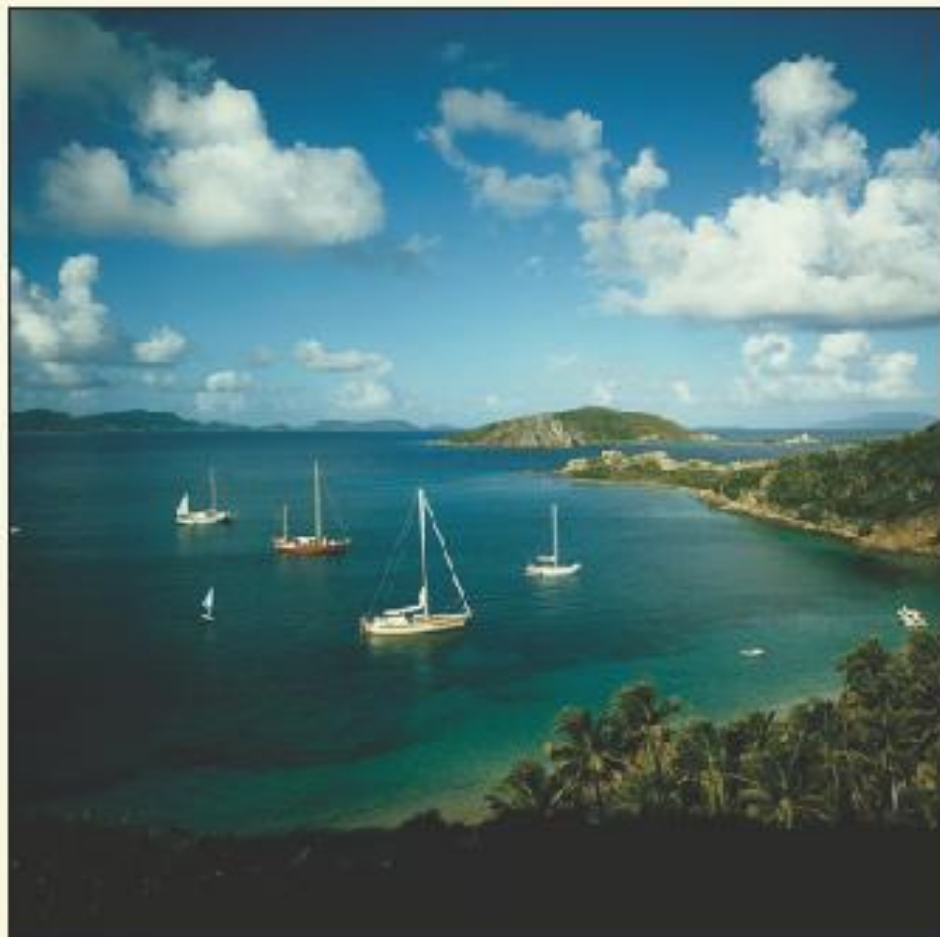
さあ、これからすてきな旅に出ましょう。先に準備をしましょう。目を閉じて。気を静めて。息をすって、はいて。もう一度すって、はいて。腕をぎゅっとして、力をぬいて。足をぎゅっとして、力をぬいて。

さあ、私たちは公園で寝転がっています。いろいろな形をした雲をながめながら思います。この雲は世界中に行く。他の国でも同じ雲をみる事ができると。

世界の友達にメッセージを送りましょう。雲に届けてもらうのです。あなたの事を大切にしますよ。話を聞いてあげるよ。あなたがどこからであろうと大切な友達です、と。雲が私たちの思いを運んでくれます。

さあ気持ち良く昼寝をした後にまた空を見上げると、同じ雲が新しいメッセージを持って帰ってきました。あなたの声が届きましたよ。同じ人間家族として尊敬します。あなたが家族、友達でとてもうれしいです。一緒に時を過ごしたい、と。

今日はなんてすてきな日なんでしょう！世界の友達と雲を分かち合うだけでなく、尊敬も分かち合えたのです。では目を開けてサークルに戻りましょう。



Origami Lantern

Materials:

Little LED Light

Origami paper

Washi paper (Thin Japanese paper)

Scissors or cutter

Tape

Method;

Cut designs in the origami paper.

Paste the thin washi paper behind the origami paper.

Wrap the doubled papers around the LED light.

JAPANESE LANTERN!

Make a bunch,

They are great for Devotional Meetings!



Photos



Parents Page

As parents we naturally want our children to get a good education, but, for what end goal? We want them to succeed, but, what is the definition in our eyes of success? Baha'u'llah says;

“Man is the supreme Talisman. Lack of a proper education hath, however, depriveth him of that which he doth inherently possess.....The Great Being saith; Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom.”

We should encourage our children to, through education, draw out the talents they have, and refine them, so that those talents will be of benefit to mankind. We should continually remind our children that the reason they need to do their homework, and get good grades on their tests, is so they can learn as much as possible in order to serve mankind with the knowledge that they have obtained.

The Baha'i writings explain that there are three kinds of knowledge; material, human, and Spiritual. Material education is concerned with the progress of the body, Human education is social studies, the sciences, the arts, etc, and Spiritual education is acquiring divine attributes, virtues. It is the responsibility of each of us to strive to attain excellence in each of these kinds of knowledge, for the purpose of service to mankind, which is in essence, service to God.

On Education, Abdu'l-Baha said...

“Every kind of knowledge, every science, is as a tree: if the fruit of it be the love of God, then is it a blessed tree, but if not, that tree is but dried-up wood, and shall only feed the fire.”

Let us show our children, by our words and our actions, that service to mankind is the highest goal we can achieve through our education.



Answers to the Quiz:

- 1) Riaz. 2) Physical and spiritual knowledge. 3) The knowledge of God. 4) Through the Manifestations (Great Teachers) of God. 5) Through books and studying. 6) Through the Manifestations of God. 7) Tahiri. 8) Persia (Iran). 9) Baha'u'llah. 10) “You may kill me as soon as you like, but you cannot stop the emancipation of women.”



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 yb7mb7@bma.biglobe.ne.jp

Hiru no Hoshi

Published: / December, 2012

No. 252

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:

Meditation Page: Edana Almanza

Photographs: Luana Hirahara, Hana Mactier, Eriko Kojima

Art: Michelle Hanna, Mary Jane Volkmann, Ivan Lloyd, Larry Curtis, Luana Hirahara,

Kaori Hiramoto

Technical Advisor: Nozomu Sonda

Supervisor: Yuichi Hirano