

A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

Brilliant Star

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CELEBRATE THE 200TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

HOW CAN YOU PLANT
SEEDS OF HOPE?

Hope for
Humanity

Brilliant Star

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Brilliant Star empowers kids to explore their roles as world citizens. Inspired by the principles of peace and unity in the Bahá'í Faith, we encourage readers to use their virtues to make the world a better place.

The Bahá'í Faith is the second most widespread religion in the world, with over five million Bahá'ís. It was founded by the Prophet Bahá'u'lláh ("Glory of God" in Arabic) in 1863. Bahá'u'lláh taught that all people are part of one human family, and all religions come from one God. Bahá'u'lláh's eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, interpreted His teachings and led the Bahá'í community after Bahá'u'lláh's passing.

Today, Bahá'ís work to bring love and justice to the world, and end prejudice and discrimination of all kinds.

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Riley's Rainforest

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Maya's Mysteries

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She encourages the search for truth.



Shining Lamp: Nabíl-i-A'zam

Once a shepherd, he became a Bahá'í historian.



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DEAR FRIENDS,

When you think about the future, how do you feel? Excited? Worried? Hopeful?

We don't know what the world will be like in 10 years or 100 years. But we can choose what we want and expect it to be. When we look forward with hope, we can see a bright future for all—and figure out how to make it happen. We'll face challenges along the path, but we can work together to overcome them.

In this issue of *Brilliant Star*, created in honor of the 200th anniversary of Bahá'u'lláh's birth, discover what it means to have hope. Explore a timeline of Bahá'u'lláh's life and mission. Draw yourself achieving a goal that's important to you. Create a cool homemade glider to inspire you to soar with determination. And get to know Roya Akhavan, a professor and author who encourages students to investigate truth and share ideas through the media.

There are so many inspiring people that can help us build a better world—and you're one of them! Let your light shine and help guide others toward a hopeful vision for all humanity.



LOVE, BRILLIANT STAR ☆



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Sharing Love and Hope

Have you ever learned about a problem in the world and wished you could do something about it? Fourth-grader Tiernan C. did, and he turned his wish into a service project.

Tiernan, a Bahá'í who lives in Connecticut, U.S., started Hartford Bags of Love to provide homeless people with needed items. With positive goals and a nine-year-old founder, the project attracted attention. U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal wrote to Tiernan, "You are not only providing those in need with clothing and toiletries, but you are also giving them hope for a better tomorrow."

Brilliant Star interviewed Tiernan to learn more about his project. His experience shows how one inspired person can make a difference with service.



Tiernan and friends put encouraging notes in the bags.

Q: What inspired you to launch Hartford Bags of Love?

A: My parents were taking me to Bushnell Park in Hartford . . . [to help serve] food for the homeless



Tiernan C. (front row, in red shirt), his mom Renu, his brother Aakhil, and others gather to assemble "Bags of Love."

... There's this one homeless man I was talking to . . . about what his life is like, and it was kind of emotional for me. So I talked to my parents, and we started Hartford Bags of Love . . . It started out as a small thing. Then people started getting interested and . . . then we got on the news, so it's grown a lot.

Q: How did you decide what to include in the bags?

A: We thought that [we] could try to make their life better by at least starting [with] some stuff that they might want to eat, like granola bars or bottles of water . . . We gave out bags full of stuff . . . like [a] toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash . . . And then we started getting donations from . . . the town . . .

Q: What do you write on the notes that you put in the bags?

A: Inspirational messages, like "never give up" — just stuff that might make them feel a little bit better about their lives . . .

Q: What advice do you have for somebody who is thinking of starting a service project?

A: Try to think about what would be the most helpful . . . [If you] want to do something that might not be possible, try something smaller at the beginning, then . . . work up to that.



Q: What virtues are important to have when you're doing a service project like this?

A: Kindness, because [you] can be kind to [people] when you're talking to them. And also love, because Hartford Bags of Love is about helping [people] and sharing their love.

Go to www.brilliantstarmagazine.org/articles/sharing-love-and-hope for more photos and the extended interview with Tiernan.

Shine Your Light

“Use every opportunity to shine a light that can illuminate the way and offer assurance to the anxious, hope to the despairing.” –Bahá’í Writings

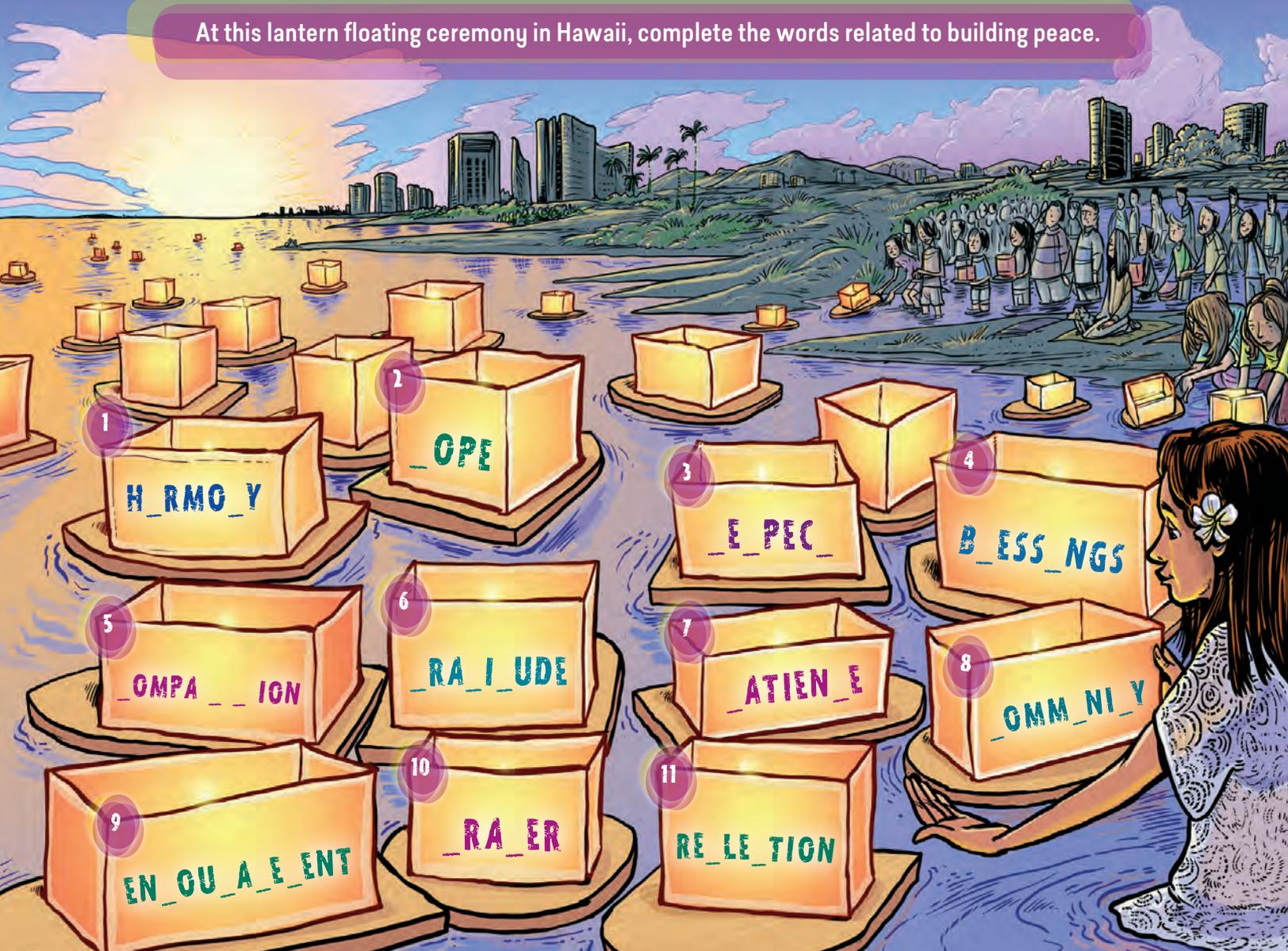
At dusk along a Hawaiian seashore, waves splash gently on thousands of people who have gathered for a special moment. Each one holds a small, square lantern. On the sides, they’ve written prayers for peace or memories of loved ones who have passed away.

After waiting patiently for a turn, each person rests a lantern on top of the water and watches as it floats

off into the distance. Thousands of tiny, flickering lights represent hope for the future and the strength of a supportive community.

There are many beautiful ways to express our hopes for peace. We can pray together, share music, and reach out to others with kindness. Shining the light of our positive thoughts and actions brings us closer to a more unified world.

At this lantern floating ceremony in Hawaii, complete the words related to building peace.



Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

An Extraordinary Child

A Brief Timeline

The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

The highlighted area marks the time in which this story takes place.

1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh in Tihrán, Iran

1844

Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

1852

Imprisonment in the "Black Pit" of Tihrán

1853–1863

Exile in Baghdád, Iraq. From 1854–1856, He goes into the mountains to pray in solitude.

1863 April 22

Declares Divine Mission as Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith

1863–1868

Exile in Constantinople (Istanbul), then Adrianople (Édirne), Turkey. Begins writing letters to kings and rulers in 1867, urging world unity

1868

Last exile, to prison-city of 'Akká, Israel

1877

Finally free to live in countryside homes of Mazra'ih and then Bahjí, outside 'Akká

1892 May 29

Bahá'u'lláh passes away at Bahjí.

An extraordinary child was born in Tihrán, Persia (now Iran) in 1817. Named Mírzá Husayn-'Alí, He later became known as Bahá'u'lláh ("Glory of God" in Arabic). His family descended from the Prophets Abraham and Zoroaster, and from ancient Persian kings.

Bahá'u'lláh's father, Mírzá 'Abbás, held a high position in the court of the sháh (king) of Persia. He was honored for his virtuous character and his talent in calligraphy. The sháh so admired him that he gave him the title Buzurg, or "the Great One."

Bahá'u'lláh's mother was Khadíjih Khánum. Little is known about her. She was a widow with three children when she married Mírzá Buzurg. Together they had five children, and their third-born was Bahá'u'lláh.

Bahá'u'lláh's mother was so attached to Him that she disliked being apart, even for a moment. She marveled at His calmness. "This child never cries," she said. "He is so unlike other babies that cry and scream and are forever restless . . ."

When Bahá'u'lláh was a child, Mírzá Buzurg dreamed that his son was swimming in a vast ocean. Bahá'u'lláh's body radiated light, and His black hair flowed above the waves in all directions. As He swam, schools of fish attached themselves to the strands of His hair, but Bahá'u'lláh was unharmed.

Mírzá Buzurg consulted a wise man who interpreted dreams. The man said that the ocean symbolized the world. "Single-handed and alone, your son will achieve supreme ascendancy over it," he said. The fish represented the people



Tákur, in the north of Iran, where the family of Bahá'u'lláh had a summer home.

who would gather around Him, but "this tumult will never harm His person, nor will His loneliness upon the sea of life endanger His safety."

Mírzá Buzurg grew even more devoted to his son and hopeful about His future.

Bahá'u'lláh loved being outdoors and riding horses. He spent summers at His family's luxurious home in the mountain village of Tákur. In Tihrán, they lived in a group of seven interconnected mansions with beautiful furnishings and private baths.

Bahá'u'lláh was tutored at home in the Qur'án, calligraphy, and poetry, as was customary for children of wealth and nobility. He impressed others with His wisdom and insight. By about age 13, Bahá'u'lláh would talk with religious scholars in large gatherings, and they would listen carefully as He explained spiritual ideas.

"Such intelligence! And such perception! He is as a flame of fire!" Mírzá Buzurg said. "Even at this young age He surpasses mature men."

“From childhood He was extremely kind and generous. He was a great lover of outdoor life, most of His time being spent in the garden or the fields. He had an extraordinary power of attraction, which was felt by all.” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

When Bahá’u’lláh was about 22, Mirzá Buzurg passed away. Bahá’u’lláh was offered a government position, but He declined. When the Prime Minister heard of His refusal, he said, “Leave him to himself. Such a position is unworthy of him.”

Bahá’u’lláh’s mission went far beyond worldly affairs. In 1863, He announced His station as a Messenger of God. Today His followers are found in almost every country. In 2017, Bahá’ís around the globe joyfully celebrate the 200th anniversary of His birth, which the Bahá’í writings say represents “the single greatest worldwide opportunity there has ever been for connecting hearts to Bahá’u’lláh.”



The house of Bahá’u’lláh in Tákur, in the province of Mázindarán. It was destroyed by the government in 1981.

Find 19 words related to the story. Look up, down, backward, forward, and diagonally.

CALLIGRAPHY	C	E	V	W	T	Y	G	Y	D	S	R	D	H	D	X
CHARACTER	C	X	U	A	L	H	B	E	X	M	O	D	S	I	W
CHILDHOOD	S	T	R	K	L	P	G	X	F	B	Z	Y	U	D	L
DREAM	E	R	L	B	K	A	U	I	R	P	C	I	O	H	I
EXTRAORDINARY	L	A	U	T	I	R	I	P	S	N	N	O	I	K	G
FISH	B	O	M	X	N	G	Y	Y	S	N	H	R	G	Y	C
GENEROSITY	O	R	R	O	D	I	V	Q	T	D	I	E	I	A	H
HUMANITY	N	D	A	U	N	L	L	P	L	I	N	T	L	P	T
INSIGHT	M	I	N	T	E	L	L	I	G	E	N	C	E	W	G
INTELLIGENCE	F	N	D	D	S	A	H	D	R	P	C	A	R	V	U
KINDNESS	V	A	G	O	S	C	Z	O	O	O	C	R	M	S	E
NOBLE	W	R	M	O	V	O	S	E	W	E	I	A	A	U	V
OUTDOORS	G	Y	X	R	W	I	T	M	F	I	S	H	E	S	H
PEACEFUL	K	E	Q	S	T	R	I	U	M	P	H	C	R	H	H
POETRY	F	D	A	Y	Y	E	L	K	D	C	S	P	D	I	Q
RELIGIOUS															
SPIRITUAL															
TRIUMPH															
WISDOM															

Persevere Toward Peace: Create a

“World peace is not only possible but inevitable.” –Bahá’í Writings

How do we know if our hopes can come true? People once thought humans would *never* fly. But in spite of dangers, inventors dared to dream and experiment. With creativity and perseverance, hot-air balloons and gliders were invented. In 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright successfully flew the first powered and controlled aircraft. Afterward, air travel made incredible advances. Now over eight million people fly worldwide every day!

Just as humans flew into the skies, we can soar spiritually and create a peaceful world. It’s hard to imagine, but like aviation, people *can* achieve what seems impossible. To overcome the conflicts that keep us down, our powerful ingenuity and determination give us wings.

Make this cool glider to inspire you to soar. Name it for a virtue you want to practice. Have fun experimenting with its design and trying different ways to fly it.



You'll Need

- 5 3/4" x 2 1/8" (14.6 x 5.4 cm) piece of paper
- 7 3/4" (19.7 cm) thin drinking straw
- two 10" (25.4 cm) foam plates
- 2" x 3" (5.1 x 7.6 cm) index card
- 3/4" (1.9 cm) duct or masking tape
- wedge-shaped cap eraser
- permanent markers
- pen
- ruler
- scissors

1 For wing shape, fold paper in half so long edges meet. On one open end, cut through both layers to round corners. Open paper.



2 Trace paper wing shape twice onto plates. Cut out foam wings so they're even.



3 For glider's tail, cut out two rectangles from plates—1 1/4" x 3 1/4" (3.2 x 8.3 cm) and 1 1/4" x 1 1/2" (3.2 x 3.8 cm). Cut off one corner of smaller rectangle so it's rounded.



4 Draw line across center of large rectangle. Repeat on other side.



COOL Glider



- 5 Tape sides of short, straight edge of small rectangle to large rectangle, so it stands up on line.



- 6 Tape end of straw to line on bottom side of long rectangle. Tail's rounded edge should face glider's front.



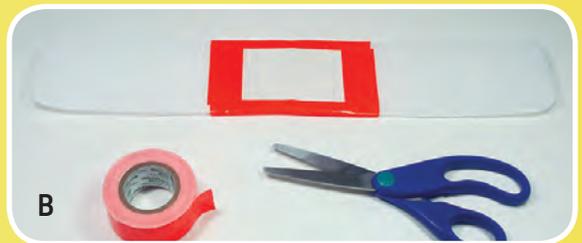
- 7 Tape short, straight edges of wings together. Flip wings over.



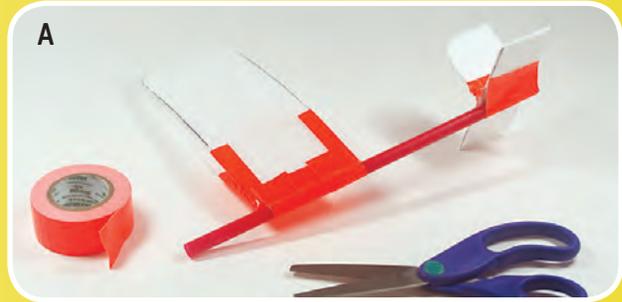
- 8 A. Fold index card in half so short ends meet, then open card. With wings lying flat, place card's crease over seam of wings.



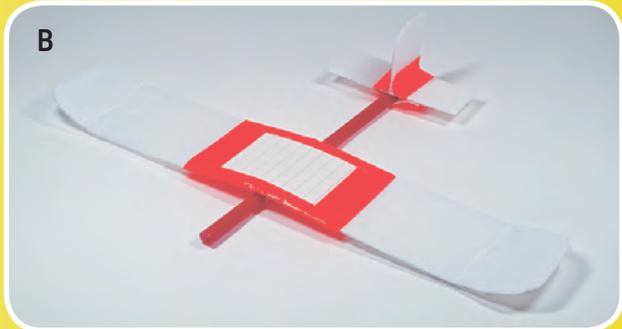
- B. Tape all edges of card to wings.



- 9 A. Fold wings up and tape straw along seam that's without index card. 1½" (3.8 cm) of straw should extend forward past wings. Make sure plane's tail points up.



- B. Open wings. Fold wings down along seam (without crushing straw) so wings lie flat on table, then gently press wing tips slightly upward.



- 10 For glider's nose, center eraser's open end on straw's open end. Secure with tape. Decorate glider with markers, avoiding tape and straw. Now it's ready to fly!



RILEY'S RAINFOREST



“Send down... from the clouds of Thy mercy the rains of Thy healing...”

—Bahá'u'lláh

Explore & Soar:

Give Yourself a Lift

It's easy to say we should be hopeful, but it's not always easy to do. Try these paths to perking up.

Be positive.

Focus on successes you've had in the past to help you feel more optimistic about the future.



Be real.

Hopeful people tend to be confident but realistic. Choose goals that excite you and let you use your strengths.

Be tough.

One aspect of hope is knowing that there will be obstacles, but having the determination to push past them.

Laugh a lot.

Humor can inspire hope and happiness. Smiling and laughter increase feel-good chemicals in the brain.



Hope Is Healthy

Did you know that our beliefs can impact how our brains respond to illness and injury? Hopeful thoughts can boost our ability to heal and handle pain. If we're sure we're going to feel better, we're more likely to do just that.

The Bahá'í writings say that one way doctors can help patients heal is by giving them hope for recovery. Scientists have observed this phenomenon, too. Sometimes, a pill can work if someone believes it will—even if there's no medicine in it! It's called the **placebo effect**—when patients experience improvement simply because they expect they will.

Positive beliefs help in other ways, too. Want a healthier body? People who are optimistic about the future tend to eat more fruits

and vegetables, exercise more frequently, and say no to smoking. Want to have more fun? A poll of a million people found that hopeful participants tended to laugh and smile much more often than people who weren't as hopeful. Want better grades? Studies of students find that hope helps determine who will do well in school—even more than intelligence or personality.

Wishing and positive thinking aren't enough on their own. In addition to believing there's a way to succeed, hope involves taking steps to get there, even when it might be challenging.

Hope is also contagious. It's boosted by friends and family who are supportive and encouraging. Through our words and actions, we all help the world by spreading hope!

Curiosity Canopy



Did you know? Hope may make you a more successful athlete! Researchers have found that hopeful kids perform better and are less likely to consider quitting sports. And students who took a class designed to raise hopefulness reported increased confidence in their athletic ability.

Noble Nightingales

“In the garden of thy heart plant naught but the rose of love, and from the nightingale of affection and desire loosen not thy hold.” – Bahá’u’lláh



Are you ever so full of emotion that you want to sing out to the world? Nightingales are famous for their nighttime songs. Their complex melodies include over 200 musical phrases. They sing so vigorously that they actually lose weight!

Nightingales are often found in art, music, and poetry, and they’re in the Bahá’í writings. In 1863, when Bahá’u’lláh announced His mission as a Messenger of God, He stayed in a rose garden in Baghdád for 12 days.

As He walked in the garden at night, the nightingales sang so loudly that only those closest to Him could hear His voice. Bahá’u’lláh said the birds sang all night due to their great love for the roses. He later referred to Himself as the “Nightingale of Paradise” Who brings the message of God.

Like nightingales, we can sing out with energy and devotion. When our words and actions uplift others, we bring unique songs to the gardens of humanity.

At this prayer gathering in a rose garden, find 19 nightingales.





PLAN TO PERSEVERE

This has been the saddest week ever. First, my best friend, Aiko, moved across the country. Then, I wiped out on my bike and broke my leg! To top it off, now we have to cancel our family's hiking trip. I've been excited about this trip for months. Ugh, what a bummer!

But when I got my cast, the doctor reminded me that everyone has challenges. She gave me

a calendar and marked the weeks until the cast comes off. So I have hope for better times ahead.

On the calendar, I wrote my "Plan to Persevere" and filled the days with positive ideas. I picked days to invite friends over, volunteer at the animal shelter, and do kind things for others. I even put in reminders to say prayers. Whatever life throws at me, it helps to look for ways to be hopeful.

ARE YOU HOPEFUL?

Circle your answers, then add up your points.

1. I say prayers and read sacred writings to lift my spirits.
OFTEN: 3 • SOMETIMES: 2 • RARELY: 1
2. I take care of my health by eating nutritious food and getting enough sleep.
OFTEN: 3 • SOMETIMES: 2 • RARELY: 1
3. When I'm feeling sad, I talk to family or friends.
OFTEN: 3 • SOMETIMES: 2 • RARELY: 1
4. I think about or write down things I'm grateful for.
OFTEN: 3 • SOMETIMES: 2 • RARELY: 1
5. I focus on what I can do today, and try not to dwell on the past.
OFTEN: 3 • SOMETIMES: 2 • RARELY: 1
6. I catch my negative thoughts and turn them into positive ones.
OFTEN: 3 • SOMETIMES: 2 • RARELY: 1
7. I learn about heroes who have overcome difficulties.
OFTEN: 3 • SOMETIMES: 2 • RARELY: 1
8. I do small acts of kindness for others.
OFTEN: 3 • SOMETIMES: 2 • RARELY: 1
9. I spend time with positive and supportive friends.
OFTEN: 3 • SOMETIMES: 2 • RARELY: 1
10. I make music, do art, or write in a journal to express my feelings.
OFTEN: 3 • SOMETIMES: 2 • RARELY: 1
11. I exercise or walk in nature to keep my body and mind strong.
OFTEN: 3 • SOMETIMES: 2 • RARELY: 1
12. I make a plan to reach my dreams and take small steps to achieve them.
OFTEN: 3 • SOMETIMES: 2 • RARELY: 1

MY TOTAL SCORE: _____

36–28 points: You're full of hope and ready to take on the adventure of life. Keep it up!

27–20 points: You're doing great. If life throws you a challenge, try another tip from the quiz.

19–12 points: You can do this! Pick tips from the quiz to work on, or talk about it with a friend.

EXPLORE AND PROTECT THE EARTH AND ITS CREATURES



"All the members of this endless universe are linked one to another." —Bahá'í Writings

EARTH-SAVING TIP

Sustainable Souvenirs

It's fun to have something to help you remember your adventures. Instead of taking flowers, rocks, or other things from nature, take a picture!



WOW, REALLY?

The sun's diameter is 400 times larger than the moon's, but it's 400 times farther away from Earth, so they appear to be the same size.



OUR CONNECTIONS



On August 21, 2017, a total solar eclipse will be visible in 12 U.S. states. The moon will pass exactly in front of the sun, blocking sunlight for almost three minutes. Eclipses have been tracked for over 5,000 years. Before the cause of sudden daytime darkness was understood, people were frightened. But now, people flock to see these dramatic cosmic events, using special glasses to prevent eye damage.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Dr. Diana H. Wall of Colorado, U.S., is a soil ecologist who has spent more than 25 seasons in Antarctica, studying how microscopic worms called nematodes impact ecosystems. In 2004, Wall Valley, Antarctica, was named after her to honor her research. She says, "Soil fertility is crucial for feeding and clothing the world's people."



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



The Mansion of Bahjí, or "Delight," was Bahá'u'lláh's final home from 1879–1892. A marble eagle symbolizing victory stands among the serene gardens. Nearby, Bahá'u'lláh's Shrine is the holiest spot on Earth for Bahá'ís. *Unscramble the letters to find the country:*

R I S A L E

AMAZING ANIMALS



This small, secretive bird is usually heard but not seen. Famous for its nocturnal singing, it migrates from Europe and the Middle East to Africa. One bird was tracked for 3,000 miles (4,828 km)! *Fill in the blanks to find its name:*

I G H I G A L



BAXTER AND BRIDGET

LIGHTNING & LUNA

CLOSING IN

#73



IN ELKA EGO'S LAIR ...



LUNA, ARE YOU OK?

UGH... I ... UGH...

TALK TO ME, SIS!

I NEVER WANT TO LOOK AT ANOTHER MIRROR!

MEANWHILE, ON THE ROOF ...



VOOOSSSHHHH!!

MINNAH, YOU DID IT! YOU GOT US OVER THE MOAT!

SSSMASHHH!



POD 7, REPORT!

UH, LIGHTNING AND LUNA ARE IN TROUBLE!

WHO IS THIS?

COLIN AND MINNAH, OVER.

SENDING BACKUP NOW!



GUYS! HELP IS ON THE WAY... AH... WE BROKE SOME POLE WHEN WE CRASHED ON THE ROOF.

THAT'S GOOD! MUST BE ELKA'S COMMUNICATION JAMMER! ARE YOU OK?

WE'RE FINE! AND SO IS THE POD... MOSTLY.



YOU WERE OUT COLD. LET'S WAIT FOR BACKUP.

COME ON, WE'VE GOT TO FIND THAT CONTROL ROOM!



WHOA!

WHAAAT? THE WALLS ARE MOVING!



HEY, GUYS! THIS IS BAD!

IN THE GAME, THIS IS A TRAP!

MORE OF ELKA'S CREATIVE HOSPITALITY, HUH?



Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Bahá'u'lláh's Birth

Why are we here? How should we live our lives? What happens when we die? Throughout history, God has sent Teachers to help us answer these kinds of questions. Like Jesus, Buddha, Muhammad, and other Messengers of God before Him, Bahá'u'lláh brought divine teachings for our age. The religion He founded, the Bahá'í Faith, offers a message of peace, unity, and hope.

Bahá'u'lláh was called Mírzá Husayn-'Alí when He was born in Tihrán, Persia (now Iran), in 1817. As a child of a wealthy nobleman, He didn't attend school, yet He was remarkably wise and could talk about difficult religious teachings with Muslim leaders. "Bahá'u'lláh," the title He would later take, means "Glory of God" in Arabic.

Bahá'u'lláh was always kind and generous. As a young man, He was offered an important job in the government, but He didn't accept it.

Instead, He chose to share His time and money with those in need. People called Him "Father of the Poor."

Vision in a Dungeon

When He was 27, Bahá'u'lláh became a follower of a new Messenger of God known as the Báb, which means "the Gate." The Báb taught that another Messenger would soon come to lead the world to unity.

Islamic authorities wanted to stop the Báb and His teachings. They executed Him in 1850. His followers, called Bábís, were persecuted terribly. More than 20,000 were killed.

In 1852, Bahá'u'lláh was put in heavy chains and thrown into a dungeon called the "Black Pit" with other Bábís. Each day, a Bábí was pulled from the dungeon, tortured, and executed. Bahá'u'lláh's family feared He would be killed. Their home was ransacked, and they were forced to flee.

Bahá'u'lláh spent four months in the filthy, vermin-infested Black Pit. Even in these miserable conditions, Bahá'u'lláh's spirit soared. It was during this time that He had a mystical experience that would change His life. He saw a vision of a radiant maiden, who called Bahá'u'lláh the "Best-Beloved of the worlds." He later wrote that "the breezes of the All-Glorious were wafted over Me, and taught Me the knowledge of all that hath been." After this vision, Bahá'u'lláh began to reveal holy writings.

Unstoppable Mission

When He was released from prison, Bahá'u'lláh was banished from His homeland. He went to Baghdád, Iraq. Still, He continued to share His message of unity. He taught that the human race is one family and religion should bring peace, not war. He called on all people to work for the betterment of the world.



November 12, 1817

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh in Tihrán, Iran. His home in Tihrán is shown here.



1844

Recognizes the Báb as a new Messenger of God

1852

Imprisonment in the "Black Pit" of Tihrán. The "X" marks the site of the prison.



1853–1863

Exile in Baghdád, Iraq. From 1854–1856, He goes into the mountains to pray in solitude.

April 22, 1863

Declares Divine Mission as Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith

“So powerful is the light of unity
that it can illuminate the whole earth.” —Bahá’u’lláh

“All men have been created to carry forward an ever-advancing civilization,” He wrote. In time, He announced that He was the Messenger of God Whom the Báb had foretold.

For the rest of His life, Bahá’u’lláh lived in exile or imprisonment in what are now Iraq, Turkey, and Israel. His family shared in His sufferings. At times, they endured strenuous journeys, had very little food, lived in cramped quarters, and faced prejudice and hostility from those around them. The government thought that by sending Bahá’u’lláh away, they could stop His teachings from spreading.

But Bahá’u’lláh’s divine mission for a peaceful world was unstoppable. His exiles only carried the seeds of His Faith even farther. Bahá’u’lláh wrote more than 100 volumes of letters, tablets, and books. When He passed away in 1892, He left a written will naming His eldest son, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, as leader of the Bahá’í Faith.

At right is Arabic calligraphy meaning “Yá Bahá’u’l-Abhá” or “O Thou Glory of the Most Glorious!” It refers to Bahá’u’lláh.

Making a Vision Real

Bahá’u’lláh’s writings, along with those of the Báb and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, make up the sacred Bahá’í scriptures. The Bahá’í writings also include the words of Shoghi Effendi, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s grandson who led the Faith after his passing, and the Universal House of Justice, the elected council that guides the Faith today.

More than five million Bahá’ís around the world strive to make Bahá’u’lláh’s vision of one unified world a reality. They will celebrate the 200th anniversary of Bahá’u’lláh’s birth in 2017, and of the Báb’s birth in 2019. These twin holy days will, in the words of the House of Justice, honor “those divine Figures Who set in motion an irresistible process of individual and social change.”



Bahá’u’lláh’s Message of Peace

Bahá’u’lláh shared these teachings about building peace. Imagine what the world will be like when these principles are widely practiced.

- We are one human family
- World religions are from one God
- Prejudice must end
- Women and men are equal
- Education for all
- Economic justice
- Harmony of science and religion



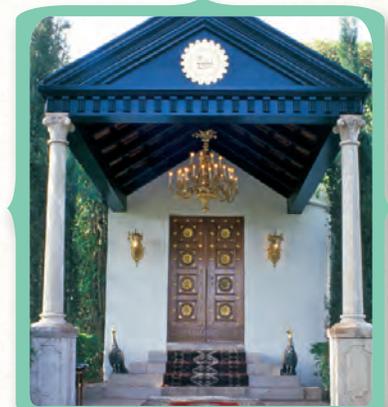
1863–1868

Exile in Constantinople (Istanbul), then Adrianople (Edirne), Turkey, where He lives in this home for one year. He begins writing to kings and rulers in 1867, urging unity.



1868

Last exile to prison-city of Akka, Israel. After nine years, He was able to live in the countryside homes of Mazra’ih and then Bahji, outside Akka.



May 29, 1892

Bahá’u’lláh passes away and is laid to rest in this shrine at Bahjí, in Israel.

October 22, 2017

Global community honors 200th anniversary of Bahá’u’lláh’s birth

RADIANT STARS

Getting to know kids who shine

Connect with kids around the world! How are they like you? How are they different? Each of us has a unique story to tell. What's yours?

Samantha S.

Age: 14

I live in: **Massachusetts, U.S.**

I want to be: **Maybe a pediatric orthodontist . . .**

This career interests me because: **I like helping people. When I was younger I had to get some things done to my teeth and my dentist was very kind . . .**

Virtue I admire most: **Kindness**

Favorite pet: **Suri, my dog**



Favorite food: **I love the Persian stews my Mom makes.**

Hobbies or sports: **Reading, acting, playing [the] flute, hiking**

A hero or role model: **I see all my relatives as role models. They've gone through really hard times to get to the life they have now . . .**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **I love my Sunday School!**

What gives me hope: **My family and friends . . . Also my social studies class—so many things went wrong in history, and we were able to learn lessons from those events . . . If people then could get past these large barriers, so can we!**

Thomas S.

Age: 12

I live in: **South Carolina, U.S.**

I want to be: **Businessman**

This career interests me because: **I am good with money and always had an interest in different types of businesses . . .**

Virtue I admire most: **Patience**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Helping teach children's classes and participating in junior youth [groups]**

A hero or role model: **My dad**

I am grateful for: **Going to school . . .**

Hobbies or sports: **Soccer**



Place I'd love to visit: **Netherlands**

To be a world citizen means:

Everyone is equal, and no matter who they are, they are a person just like yourself.

What gives me hope: **Later on in the world, there will be peace and world unity.**

If I could volunteer anywhere: **I would go to . . . the [Bahá'í World Centre] in Israel . . . so I can help create the beautiful gardens there . . .**



Aspen S.

Age: 12

I live in: **Texas, U.S.**

I want to be: **Something most likely having to do with the outdoors.**

This career interests me because: **I love camping and hiking.**

Virtue I admire most: **Forgiveness, because we can never accept the past and work towards a better future if we do not learn how to forgive.**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Junior youth group**

A hero or role model: **Malala Yousafzai**

A favorite animal: **I like okapis and capybaras.**

I am grateful for: **A free education, because not everyone in the world has that chance.**

To be a world citizen means:

Having an open mind about all cultures and religions . . . also . . . helping the world in any way you can.

What gives me hope: **I remind myself that God has a plan . . . also . . . that the world may seem bad, but happiness can still be found within it.**

Ella Z.

Age: 11

I live in: **California, U.S.**

I want to be: **A doctor**

This career interests me because:

I would like to help heal people.

Virtue I admire most:

Kindness

Hobbies or sports: **Gymnastics, DIY's**

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Fundraisers

A hero or role model:

Malala Yousafzai

I like to help people by:

Donating to nonprofits

When a friend feels down: **[I] try talking to her and . . . help her focus on the good things in her life.**

Place I'd love to visit:

London

Favorite animal or pet:

My dogs

If I could time-travel, I'd want to see:

How technology has changed

If I could volunteer anywhere:

I would go to Haifa [Israel] and serve at the Bahá'í shrines.

What helps me feel close to God:

Saying prayers and reading [Bahá'í] writings



“God has crowned you with honor and in your hearts has He set a radiant star; verily the light thereof shall brighten the whole world!” — ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Lila P.

Age: 12

I live in: **Washington, U.S.**

I want to be:

Author, chef, actress, game developer, LEGO Master [Model] Builder

This career interests me because:

I have many interests and want to try them all!

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **[Junior youth] groups and singing and playing guitar at holy days and Feasts**

A favorite food: **Tofu Banh Mi**

What gives me hope:

The knowledge that things can change, there are people helping make that change, and that I can be one [of] them.

Favorite animal or pet:

I love foxes and raccoons.



Virtue I admire most:

Flexibility and kindness

To be a world citizen means: **I think it is best said in the following quote: “to love all the [world]; to love humanity and try to serve it; to work for universal peace and universal brotherhood.”****

What helps me feel close to God:

I witness everyday miracles around me in nature, and when I pray I feel that my prayers are answered even [if] it's not answered in the way I thought it would turn out.

Theo N.

Age: 10

I live in: **Virginia, U.S.**

I want to be:

LEGO [model] designer

This career interests me because:

I love LEGO [bricks]

Virtue I admire most:

Kindness

Hobbies or sports:

Reading, LEGO [bricks], and soccer

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Ayyám-i-Há*

Favorite animal or pet:

Cats and my guinea pig

Place I'd love to visit:

Africa

I like to help people by:

Making them laugh

A hero or role model:

‘Abdu’l-Bahá

A favorite food:

Ketchup

I am grateful for:

Walking

When a friend feels down:

[I] make them laugh.

What gives me hope:

Praying

If I could time-travel, I'd want to see:

How many Bahá'ís there are

If I could volunteer anywhere:

I would go to Africa and teach the [Bahá'í] Faith.



How to be a Radiant Star:

1. If you're age 7-14, go to www.brilliantstarmagazine.org. From the top menu, choose “Discover.” Then click “Become a Radiant Star or Trailblazer,” and fill out the form. Or e-mail us at brilliant@usbnc.org. Include your name, age, birth date, mailing address, and phone number.
2. When it's your turn to shine, we'll send you questions and a form for you and your parents to sign.
3. Answer the questions and send them to us with the signed form, along with at least two good-quality, close-up photographs of your smiling face. Photos should be in sharp focus and show your eyes clearly. Please don't send color copies, low-resolution digital images, or copyright-protected images (like school portraits).

*Ayyám-i-Há is a festival of hospitality, charity, gift giving, and preparing for the Bahá'í Fast.

**Definition of a Bahá'í from 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Hannah M.

Age: **11**

I live in: **North Carolina, U.S.**

I want to be: **A singer**

This career interests me because: **I am always singing or humming.**

Virtue I admire most: **Integrity**

Hobbies or sports: **Playing basketball and read[ing]**

I like to help people by: **When I see someone is sad, I tell them life will get better soon, so put this day aside . . .**

A hero or role model: **My great-grandmother Bahi—she is the best, she loves everybody. She has experienced life challenges in Iran and knows so much about it.**

I am grateful for: **My family, because they love me and I love them so much.**

To be a world citizen means: **To be responsible to make the world a better place each day**

What gives me hope: **I think someday we all [will] become better people . . .**

If I could time-travel, I'd want to see: **[That] all the world is beautiful and people are happy and love each other**



Ivan P.

Age: **10**

I live in: **Texas, U.S.**

I want to be: **Egyptologist**

This career interests me because: **Ancient Egypt is cool, and I might as well have my year of service at a dig site while I'm at it.**

Virtue I admire most: **Empathy**

Hobbies or sports: **Karate, X-Wing (game), LEGO [bricks]**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Planning holy days. I was on the Naw-Rúz* planning committee in my community, which I really enjoyed.**

What gives me hope: **The fact that I have friends**



A hero or role model: **My teacher, Ms. Jorgenson**

To be a world citizen means: **Believing that prejudice of any sort is an affront to humanity.**

If I could time-travel, I'd want to see: **Whether or not they had discovered any cryptids (Bigfoot, Loch Ness Monster, etc).**

What helps me feel close to God: **For me, the spiritual ingredient to life that makes me feel close to God is laughter.**

Joshua V.

Age: **9**

I live in: **California, U.S.**

I want to be: **Jail commander or engineer**

This career interests me because: **My papa works as a jail command[er] and it seems fun. I would like to be an engineer because I love to build.**

Virtue I admire most: **Generosity**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Feast** and children's classes**

A hero or role model: **My sister**

Favorite animal or pet: **The wolf and . . . my dog, Pearl**

I like to help people by: **Doing community service such as Earth clean-up**

If I could time-travel, I'd want to see: **What happens . . . when a new Messenger of God comes . . .**

If I could volunteer anywhere: **I would go to Somalia and . . . give out food and water.**

What helps me feel close to God: **Talking to Him through prayer. I know God exists because Bahá'u'lláh . . . talked to us about God.**



Soraya M.

Age: **10**

I live in: **Washington, D.C.**

I want to be: **Genetic biologist**

This career interests me because: **I am interested in finding a new species.**

Virtues I admire most: **Creativity and humor**

Hobbies or sports: **Soccer, art, dancing, reading, climbing**

Favorite animal or pet: **My favorite animal is a polar bear, and I love my dog, Trixy!**

I am grateful for: **Being able to live in a clean house with running water and food. Also getting to go to school and . . . having a loving family that can keep me healthy.**



I like to help people by: **Doing service projects like trash pick-ups and soup kitchens.**

To be a world citizen means: **You need to help the world in some way, because why would God put you on Earth if you did not have a purpose?**

What gives me hope: **Knowing that I am with my family and that they will protect me.**

If I could time-travel, I'd want to see: **What [life] choices I made**

*Naw-Rúz is the Bahá'í New Year and a holy day.

**Feast is a Bahá'í community gathering with prayers, consultation, and fellowship.

MAGIC OF HOPE

"In your meaningful conversations with your friends . . . you explore together how better to contribute to the material and spiritual welfare of others . . ." —Bahá'í Writings

What if we had magical spells, charms, and potions that could instantly fix negativity in our world? Focusing mainly on negative things squashes the joy out of life.

When people share their ideas and feelings online, cyberbullying Internet "trolls" may attack with hurtful insults or even threats. Writing comments anonymously, some people sound like frightening monsters.

It's challenging to be in difficult situations in person or online, but it does help us develop strengths. For example, dealing with bullying can foster empathy for others who are oppressed. Being treated unfairly can push us to be assertive. Cruel behavior is never okay, but while we're working on solutions, we can focus on the blessings in our lives. That attitude of gratitude can truly work magic for ourselves and others.

In this Frightening Forest, match each troll with the magical mixture that transforms it.



1 Brave Brew

5 Enthusiastic Elixir

2 Positive Potion

4 Flexible Fluid

3 Courteous Cure

Hateful Hezla

Stubborn Stubza

Sorrowful Sagrid

Lying Lizurna

6 Joyful Juice

Fearful Fingan

7 Loving Liquid

Rude Rupin

8 Truthful Tonic

Bored Brutus

Negative Nogga



ZEKE & RHOMBUS: SPACE FOR COOPERATION

"What wondrous technical advances have been made . . . and what stupendous inventions have appeared." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

Ciao, Earth friends! It's Zeke and Rhombus, from planet Zilzag, on board the International Space Station (ISS). We're orbiting 249 miles (400 km) above Earth. This is one of our favorite spots in the universe. Why? Because it's a great example of cosmic cooperation. Parts of the ISS were built on different continents and put together for the first time in space! More than 225 humans

from 18 countries have been here.

As we travel the universe in search of peaceful planets, Rhombus and I love to visit the ISS and see how space scientists work together. The astronauts speak different languages and come from diverse cultures, but they're all doing research to help humanity. If peace works in space, it can work anywhere! *Do svidaniya!*

Find these nine items that help astronauts work together in space. Watch out for decoys.



Compassionate Camera



Encouraging Exercise Bike



Flags of Friendship



Giving Gloves



Helpful Headset



Loving Laptop



Patient Plant Experiment



Supportive Satellite



Truthful Tether



How to

Plant Seeds of Hope

“Create in me a pure heart, O my God, and renew a tranquil conscience within me, O my Hope!” –Bahá’u’lláh

Imagine our world at peace

Tell a friend what you admire about them

Take a walk in nature

Change a negative thought to a positive

Write 10 things you’re thankful for

Smile and wave at the neighbors

Make up a new dance

Ask a friend about hopes for their future

Call an elderly relative to say hello

Watch the sunrise or sunset

Plant a tree

Learn “Hello” in six languages

Give your teacher a homemade card

Look at your favorite photos

List five things you want to learn

Say a prayer for peace

Stop and feel the warm sun on your skin

Hug a parent or sibling

Investigate a job you’d enjoy

Draw your favorite place

Play a game with friends

Volunteer at a soup kitchen

List three life goals

Take a long look at the stars

Sing a song with your siblings

Cook or invent a new recipe

List three of your accomplishments

Collect food for a food bank

Loan a favorite book to a friend

Memorize an uplifting quote

See how many birds you can spot

Ask your parents how you can help

Gaze at the moon

Write a poem about your hopes

Find a hopeful story in the news

Learn a new joke





Roya Akhavan



Does speaking in front of a big audience make you nervous? When Roya Akhavan was a six-year-old living in Tihrán, Iran, she memorized a long poem and recited it at a charity event attended by 400 people. She says that experience helped her realize that God had given her gifts she could use to serve humanity. Even at a young age, her public speaking ability helped raise money for the poor.

With a passion for learning, Roya earned a doctorate degree in mass communications. As a professor at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota, U.S., Roya inspires students to be responsible, truthful media professionals. She also gives talks on topics like eliminating the root causes of war. Her recent book, *Peace for Our Planet: A New Approach*, explores how positive ideas like world unity are replacing old ways of relating to others.

Q: How did growing up in a Bahá'í family affect you?

A: Growing up in a Bahá'í family allowed me to always feel empowered that I could do anything that I wanted to do . . . The Bahá'í teachings of nobility of human beings and equality of women and men and excellence in all things and service to humanity . . . grounded me in a really positive perspective.

Q: With so many conflicts in the world, what gives you hope for the future of humanity?

A: What gives me hope is . . . there is a very strong, constructive, hopeful process that [is] moving forward. More and more young people . . . consider themselves as world citizens. They are concerned about others. They are searching for a noble purpose. They care about the planet.



Left: Roya, at about age 4, with her parents and older brother, Aramesh, in Iran.



Right: By age 8, Roya already had experience with public speaking.

Q: What was your most challenging experience as a kid, and what did you do about it?

A: Persecution at school for being a Bahá'í in Iran. I was sometimes made fun of or bullied by other students, or even some of the teachers . . . I tried to remain kind and resilient and teach by example . . . These experiences taught me that when we have a clear and positive vision of what we are working toward, we can withstand any obstacle . . . and not get discouraged.

Q: How can we promote peace?

A: [To] learn and really internalize the teachings of the Faith and actually put them into action in [our] relationships with everyone . . . Always try to be helpful, always try to set a good example, be resilient and not lash back at people who may . . . not be kind . . . I think we are very, very fortunate to have the example of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and all the stories about him . . .

Questions and
Answers with an
Inspirational Bahá'í



In the lounge at St. Cloud State University's campus radio station, Roya meets with mass communications graduate students.

Q: What is mass communications, and why is it an important field to study?

A: It covers all of the mass media which, you know, before the age of the Internet, included newspapers, radio, television, movies . . . public relations, advertising . . . social media . . . It affects every aspect of our lives . . . Consumers of media . . . need to know about it so that they can really become independent investigators of the truth . . . Media professionals [need to know] how to be responsible communicators . . .

Q: What do you love about your job?

A: It's very rewarding to be able to help students . . . advance in their careers and realize their gifts and fulfill their potential . . . I try . . . to encourage them to really thoroughly investigate the truth for themselves and to also realize that the goal is not just to get a job, but to be of service to their community or to other people . . .

Q: Your book talks about the process humanity is going through to achieve peace. Tell us about it.

A: History has been moving in two separate and parallel processes: one is positive and constructive, and the other is negative and destructive . . . Positive things in the world are gaining momentum, and . . . negative things are gradually falling away . . . The destructive process can be frightening, but if we focus on the constructive process, then we can feel empowered to help build communities . . . that reflect racial and gender equality, religious harmony, a sense of oneness with all of humanity . . .

Q: In this issue of *Brilliant Star*, we're honoring the 200th anniversary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh. What impact do you think this event will have on the world?

A: There [are] always mysterious spiritual forces that are operating, and there are certain occasions at which they seem to be intensified . . . I expect that this year will have that kind of potency . . . The whole Bahá'í world is planning all of these wonderful activities and . . . people have all these questions, and they are searching . . . So I think the international Bahá'í community is trying to . . . plan . . . many occasions for . . . these elevated and meaningful conversations to take place.

Q: If you had one wish for our *Brilliant Star* readers, what would it be?

A: For all of the kids to know that we have been created noble and our purpose is to realize that nobility by serving others . . . Our talents and gifts come from God, not from us, and . . . they are given to us so that we cultivate and develop them to do good things and to make the world a better place. So if we can really understand that, then we will feel empowered, and we will have self-esteem, but be very humble at the same time.

Climbing with Confidence

“Lift up your hearts above the present and look with eyes of faith into the future!” —‘Abdu’l-Bahá

You’re pumped as you set out to climb Majestic Mountain. But on the way up, you reach some tricky, treacherous rocks. What do you do?

Similar to scaling up a mountain, trying to achieve your dreams can be a difficult climb. Along with skills, you’ll need hope. Hope can inspire you to do your best and give you the

determination to succeed—even if it takes a few tries. When obstacles arise, instead of wishing things were easier, let your positive attitude help you find an alternate route.

Below, draw yourself achieving your goal. Will it be winning a sports trophy, doing a musical performance, or something else?

Write one of your goals on the mountain peak’s flag. On the smaller flags, write the names of the people, virtues, or actions that help guide you toward your dreams.



WHAT DO YOU SAY?

When you're asked about the Bahá'í Faith, what do you say? How do you talk about Bahá'u'lláh and His message of peace?

When a religion is new like the Bahá'í Faith, it can be hard for people to understand or accept it. It's only 174 years old. Christianity is about 2,000 years old, and Buddhism is over 2,500 years old.

Sometimes it's scary to talk about your religion or beliefs. If you feel nervous, you can say a quick, silent prayer for help. Think about a simple response, and speak from your heart. If you don't know the answer, be honest. Tell the person you'll find out and let them know later. Share what you *do* know and love, without any attachment to how it is received.



IN THE 1800'S, BAHÁ'U'LLÁH BROUGHT GOD'S MESSAGE OF PEACE AND UNITY.

OR

HIS NAME MEANS "GLORY OF GOD." HE TAUGHT THAT **ALL** PEOPLE ARE PART OF **ONE** HUMAN FAMILY.

WRITE WHAT YOU WOULD SAY:



THERE ARE MORE THAN FIVE MILLION BAHÁ'ÍS, ALL OVER THE WORLD. WE WORK FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE.

OR

WE BELIEVE THAT **ALL** RELIGIONS ARE PART OF ONE FAITH FROM GOD.

WRITE WHAT YOU WOULD SAY:



WE'RE **ALL** PART OF ONE FAMILY AND FAITH. ALL SOULS GET CLOSER TO GOD AFTER WE DIE.

OR

BAHÁ'ÍS BELIEVE **HEAVEN** IS WHEN YOUR **SPIRIT** IS CLOSE TO GOD.

WRITE WHAT YOU WOULD SAY:

SHINING LAMP

A Bahá'í who served humanity with radiance

Nabíl-i-A'zam (1831–1892)



Much of what we know about early Bahá'í history we owe to the poet and historian Nabíl-i-A'zam.

Nabíl was born in Zarand, Persia (now Iran) in 1831. He received a simple education and worked as a shepherd in his youth. But he was keenly interested in religion. He meditated at night under the stars, and while herding his sheep, he prayed for God to lead him to truth.

When Nabíl was about 16, he learned about the Báb, a Messenger of God Who taught that a new Messenger would soon appear. Nabíl embraced the Bábí Faith.

Spreading the Word

Nabíl transcribed the Báb's writings and traveled to share His peaceful message. But religious and government leaders felt threatened by the growing Bábí Faith. Like thousands of Bábís, Nabíl was soon imprisoned for his beliefs.

The Báb Himself was imprisoned for about two years, and then His execution was ordered. The Báb was martyred on July 9, 1850.

The Bábís were distraught and confused. For a time, Nabíl thought *he* was the Báb's successor and claimed leadership of the community. But when Nabíl encountered Bahá'u'lláh in Baghdád, he realized that Bahá'u'lláh was the Promised One. Nabíl withdrew his claim and became a devoted follower. In 1863, Bahá'u'lláh announced that He was the Messenger that the Báb had foretold.

Nabíl traveled far and wide, sharing the Bahá'í Faith. In 1868, he tried to negotiate the release of Bahá'í prisoners in Egypt, but he was imprisoned

himself. After his release, he traveled to 'Akká (in what is now Israel) to be near Bahá'u'lláh.

Nabíl was a gifted poet, and he wrote many poems for Bahá'u'lláh. He described the divine love between the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh, though the Messengers never met in person: "If the branches of every tree were turned into pens, and all the seas into ink, and earth and heaven rolled into one parchment, the immensity of that love would still remain unexplored, and the depths of that devotion unfathomed."

Chronicler of Bahá'í History

Nabíl is best known for his moving accounts of Bábí and Bahá'í history. Writing in 'Akká in 1887–88, he recorded stories of the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh, and their followers, including many who suffered persecution and martyrdom. Some of these heroic tales were translated as *The Dawn-Breakers: Nabíl's Narrative of the Early History of the Bahá'í Revelation*. Nabíl's full account has not yet been published in English.

When Bahá'u'lláh passed away in 1892, Nabíl became terribly sad. His anguish and grief overtook him, and he drowned himself in the sea. In the Bahá'í Faith, like other religions, suicide is forbidden. It is up to God to determine the length of a person's life.

Still, Bahá'u'lláh's son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, praised Nabíl's life, saying, "This distinguished man was erudite, wise, and eloquent of speech. His native genius was pure inspiration, his poetic gift like a crystal stream. . . Upon him be abundant blessings; upon him be tender mercies."

POSITIVITY FOR OUR PLANET

Can the way we *think* help the environment? Yes! Our thoughts influence our actions, and our actions lead to change. If you sincerely believe that caring for our planet is crucial, your actions will shine. But if you don't really believe that helping Earth is important, and your actions are half-hearted, what will be the results? Keeping a truly positive, hopeful outlook

is a key to caring for our global home.

The changing climate creates serious problems for Earth's people, animals, and habitats. It can be easy to let negativity get you down. But we have to take positive steps and inspire others to do the same. An optimistic attitude motivates all of us to work for a healthier world.

One of these kids has a hopeful view about caring for the environment, but the other isn't sure. Match each negative thought to the positive thought that can overcome it.

1 CLIMATE CHANGE WON'T AFFECT *ME*, SO IT'S NOT IMPORTANT.

A I LOVE SEEING PEOPLE CARE FOR OUR EARTH!

2 MOST PEOPLE DON'T CARE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT.

B I CAN USE MY SKILLS AND TALENTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

3 IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT WE DO. EARTH IS DOOMED.

C IF I USE REUSABLE THINGS, MY FRIENDS MIGHT TRY TO ALSO.

4 RECYCLING IS A PAIN. IS IT WORTH IT?

D I LOVE ANIMALS! I WANT TO PROTECT THEIR HOMES.

5 I DON'T WANT TO BE THE *ONLY* KID WITH A REUSABLE LUNCH BAG.

E I HAVE HOPE THAT IF WE WORK *TOGETHER*, WE CAN MAKE EARTH HEALTHIER.

6 *ONE* PERSON CAN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WHY TRY?

F SCIENTISTS AGREE CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL AND WE *HAVE* TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

7 SO MANY ANIMALS ARE ENDANGERED. THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN SAVE THEM ALL.

G RECYCLING IS EASY, AND THE MATERIALS MAKE AMAZING THINGS.

8 I DON'T EVEN KNOW FOR SURE IF CLIMATE CHANGE IS A *REAL* PROBLEM—WHY BOTHER TRYING TO FIX IT?

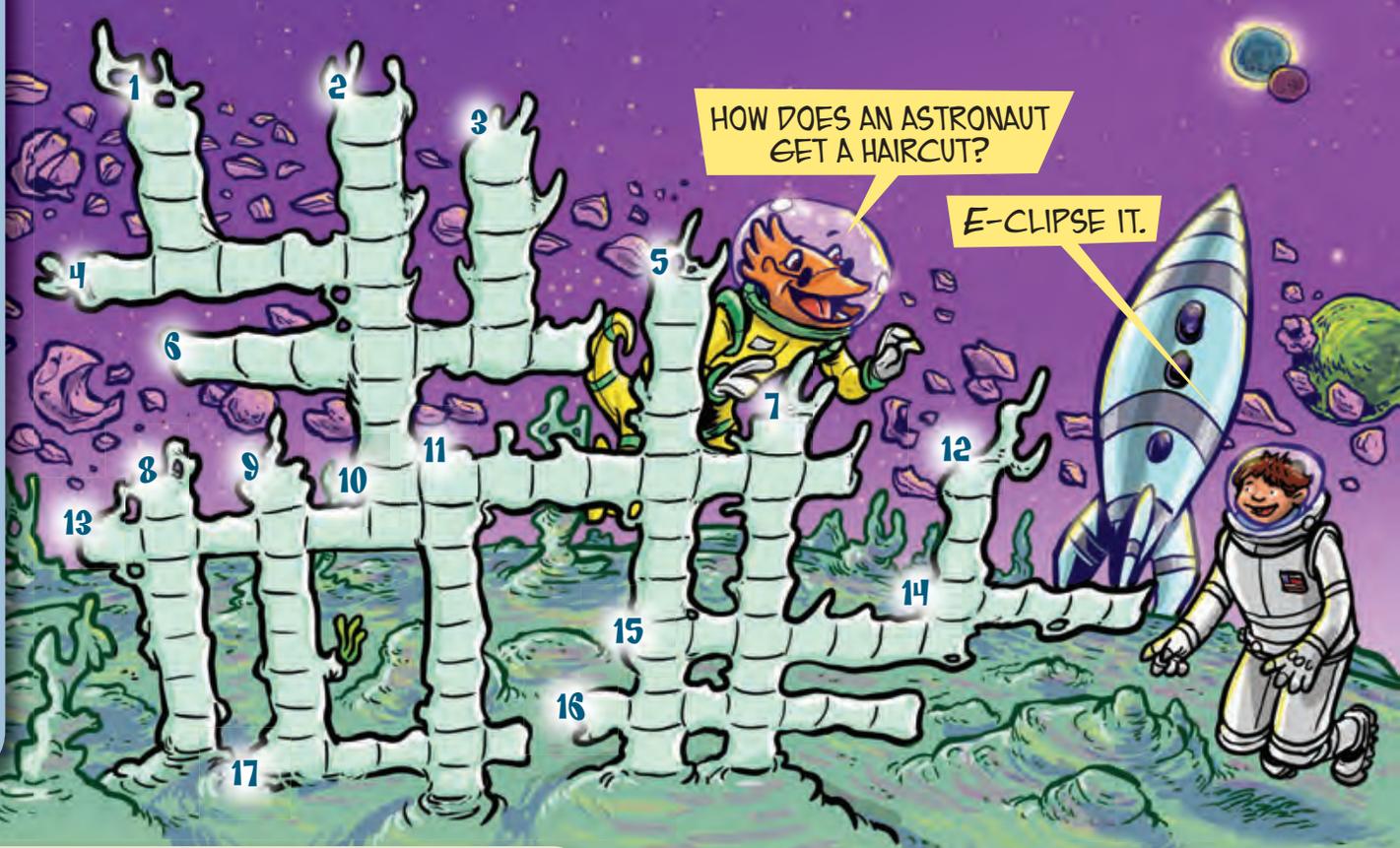
H THIS PROJECT TAKES *TIME*, BUT PEOPLE MAY CHANGE THEIR HABITS AND KEEP THE PARK CLEAN.

9 THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME. THE PARK WILL JUST BE FULL OF TRASH NEXT WEEK.

I WE HAVE TO SLOW DOWN CLIMATE CHANGE—IT IMPACTS *EVERYONE!*



Look for clues throughout the magazine.



ACROSS

4. When talking about your beliefs, speak from your _____. (p. 25)
6. No matter what, choose positive paths on your _____ of life. (p. 29)
10. Luna tells Elka Ego that the _____ are fighting for justice. (p. 13)
13. During a solar _____, the moon passes exactly in front of the sun. (p. 11)
14. Bahá'í teachings say that women and men are _____. (p. 15)
15. Our thoughts influence our _____. (p. 27)
16. Both Hannah and Soraya list _____ as a hobby. (p. 18)
17. Nabil-i-A'zam meditated under the _____. (p. 26)

DOWN

1. Tiernan's service project is called "Hartford Bags of _____." (p. 2)
2. Roya says there are "always _____ spiritual forces that are operating" in the world. (p. 23)
3. The ISS is the International _____ Station. (p. 20)
5. Famous for their nighttime songs (p. 9)
7. The attitude of _____ can work magic for ourselves and others. (p. 19)
8. People can _____ what seems impossible. (p. 6)
9. The virtue that Samantha, Ella, and Theo admire most is _____. (pp. 16, 17)
11. Maya plans to _____. (p. 10)
12. There are many beautiful ways to express our _____ for peace. (p. 3)

FROM OUR MAILBOX



Brilliant Star is a great magazine for kids. I love all of the different activities . . . When I read Brilliant Star, I feel anchored and rooted to the Bahá'í world. [One challenge I have is] fitting in at school. I am one of the only Bahá'ís at my school, and I don't celebrate the same holidays as most of the other kids at school.
 —Elsa B., age 9, Georgia, U.S.

ANSWERS

KEY: T=Top, C=Center, B=Bottom, L=Left, R=Right

Page 3: 1) harmony, 2) hope, 3) respect, 4) blessings, 5) compassion, 6) gratitude, 7) patience, 8) community, 9) encouragement, 10) prayer, 11) reflection

Page 19: 1) Fearful Fingan, 2) Negative Nogga, 3) Rude Rupin, 4) Stubborn Stubzo, 5) Bored Brutus, 6) Sorrowful Sagrid, 7) Hateful Hezla, 8) Lying Lizurno

Page 9: 1 at far TR, 2 at TL, 1 at TC, 3 at TR, 1 at CL, 4 at C, 3 at CR, 1 at BL, 2 at BC, 1 at BR

Page 20: Camera at BL, bike at CL, flags at C, gloves at CR, headset at C, laptop at BR, experiment at CR, satellite at TR, tether at CL

Page 11: Israel, Nightingale

Page 27: 1) I, 2) A, 3) E, 4) G, 5) C, 6) B, 7) D, 8) F, 9) H

FIRM AS A MOUNTAIN

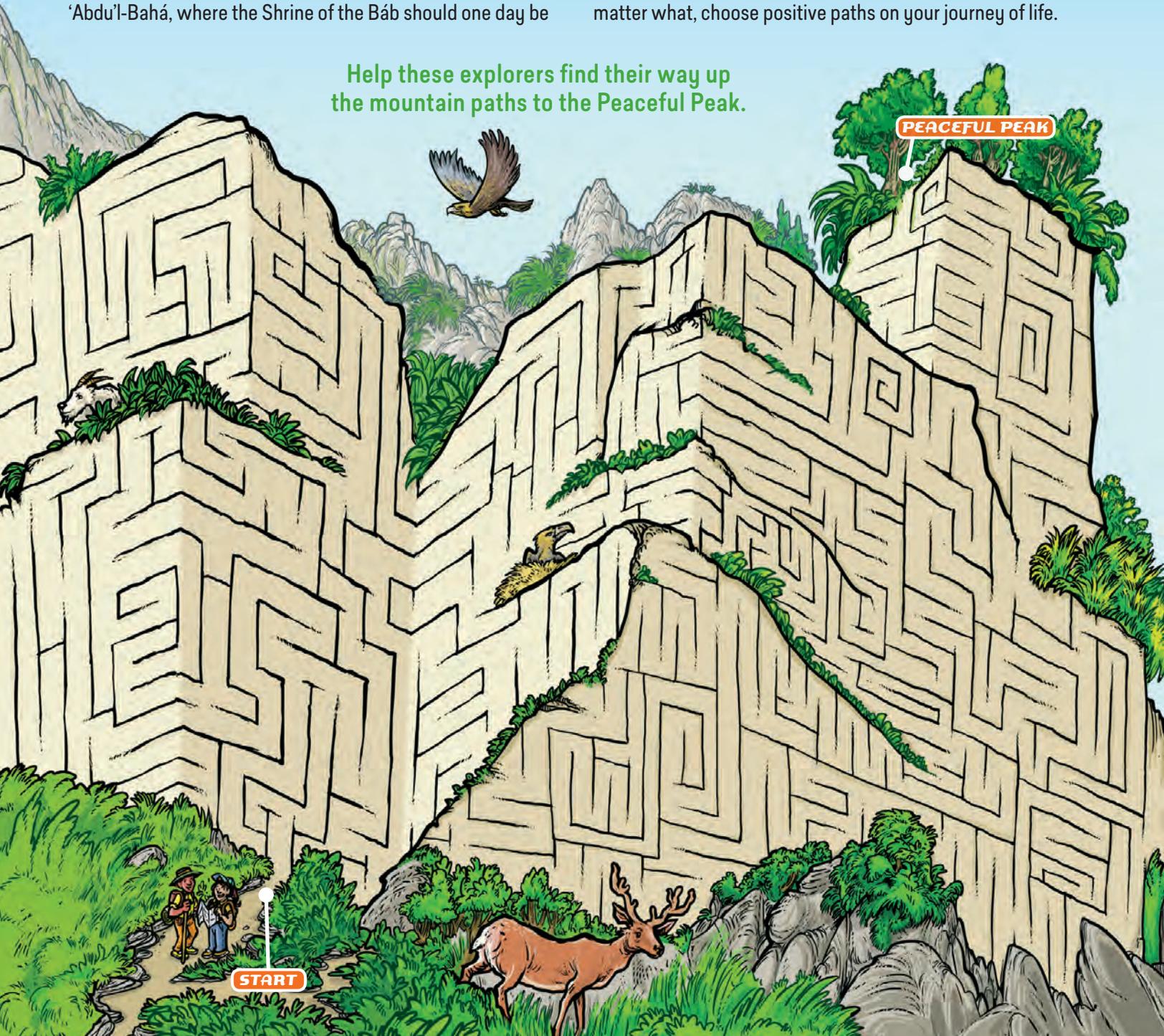
From snowy mountains to barren deserts, Bahá'u'lláh made many harsh journeys throughout His life. He faced treacherous challenges, including persecution, imprisonment, exile, and poverty. Yet He never wavered in His determination to share His message of peace.

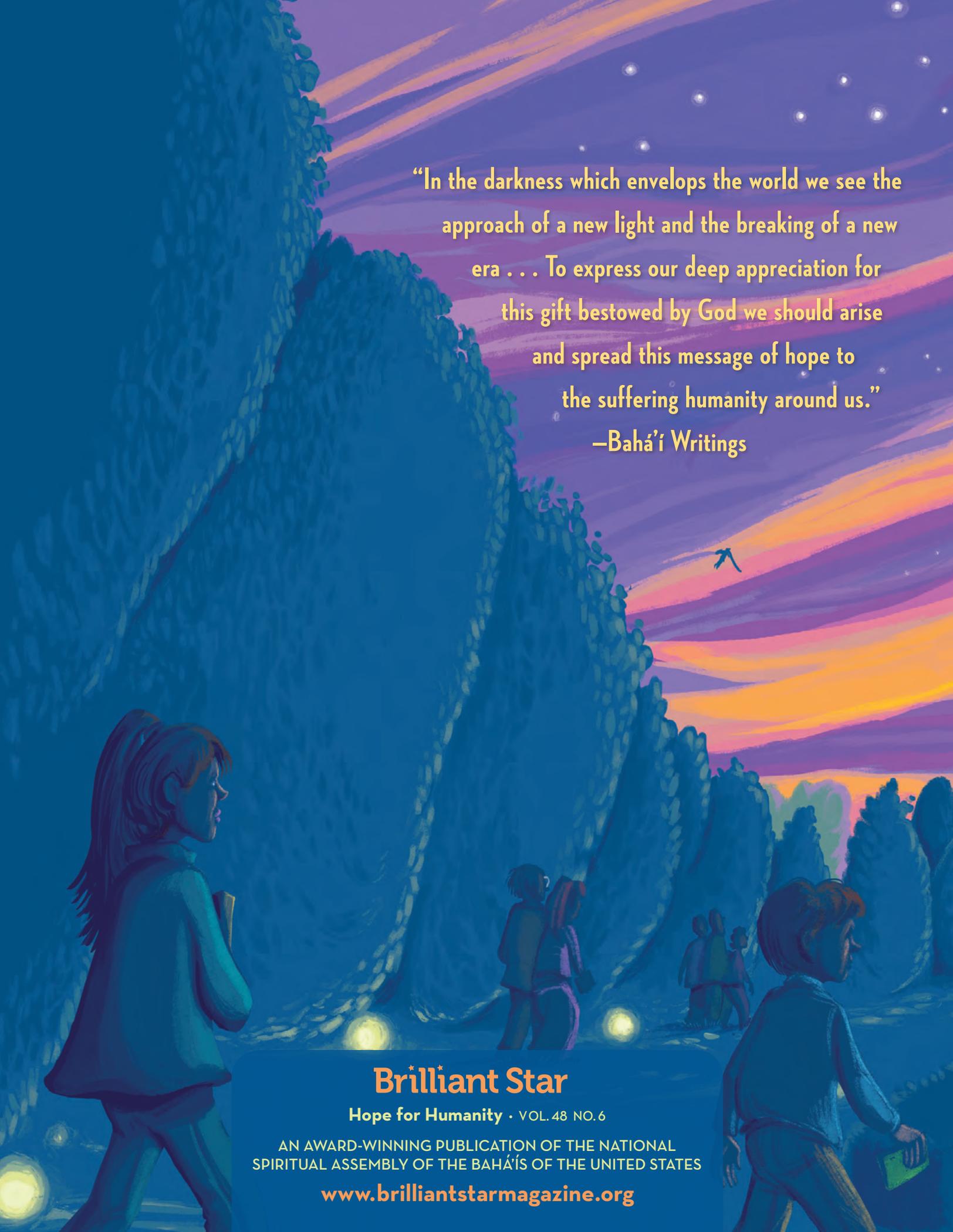
Near the end of His life, Bahá'u'lláh stayed in a tent on Mount Carmel in Haifa, now in Israel. He showed His son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, where the Shrine of the Báb should one day be

built. Today, that world-famous shrine and its magnificent gardens stand as a symbol of hope and perseverance.

We all face difficulties that can seem as daunting as steep, rocky trails. Spiritual teachings are like a map to keep us from losing our way. We can find strength to handle life's problems by praying and getting support from family and friends. We can also practice virtues such as kindness and patience. No matter what, choose positive paths on your journey of life.

Help these explorers find their way up the mountain paths to the Peaceful Peak.





“In the darkness which envelops the world we see the approach of a new light and the breaking of a new era . . . To express our deep appreciation for this gift bestowed by God we should arise and spread this message of hope to the suffering humanity around us.”
—Bahá’í Writings

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