

CONSULTATION – FEAST OF BEAUTY (JAMÁL)

This brief survey cannot do justice to the scale of the transformation that is under way. The outlook for the remaining two years of the Plan is bright. Much has been achieved this last year by widely disseminating lessons learned from the stronger programmes of growth in clusters that, as we hoped, have become reservoirs of knowledge and resources. The International Teaching Centre, the Counsellors, and their tireless auxiliaries have stopped at nothing to ensure that friends in all parts of the world can benefit from this acceleration in learning and apply the insights being gained to their own realities. We rejoice to see that in a growing number of clusters, and in neighbourhoods and villages within them, a nucleus of friends has emerged who through action and reflection are discovering what is required, at a particular point, for the process of growth to advance in their surroundings. They are drawing on the potent instrument of the institute, through which capacity to contribute to the spiritual and material prosperity of the community is enhanced, and as they act, the number of those joining them is increasing. Naturally, conditions vary greatly from place to place, as do the characteristics of growth. But through systematic striving, everyone can make a more and more effective contribution to the work at hand. In every setting, there is pure joy in engaging other souls in meaningful and uplifting conversations that lead, whether quickly or gradually, to the stirring of spiritual susceptibilities. The brighter the flame kindled within the heart of the believer, the greater will be the force of attraction felt by those exposed to its warmth. And to a heart consumed with love for Bahá'u'lláh, what more fitting occupation can be imagined than to seek out kindred spirits, to encourage them as they enter the path of service, to accompany them as they gain experience and—perhaps the greatest joy of all—to see souls become confirmed in their faith, arise independently, and assist others on the same journey. These are among the most cherished of all the moments that this transitory life affords.

Riḍván 2019 Message of the Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'ís of the World

REFLECTION & PLANNING

Bringing in mind the heroism of the Báb and His followers, what are some practical steps between now and the teaching conference on June 9th, to multiply and strengthen devotional gatherings in your neighborhood?

In your efforts to strengthen devotional gatherings that attract friends from the wider society and allow them to experience the transformative power of worship and meaningful service that these spaces offer, can you think of another family who can team up with you? Take a few moments to reflect and consult upon who will be on your team, the population you will be working with, and whom to invite.

How can a devotional gathering contribute towards growth of other core activities?

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