

Grade 1 Lesson 16

Unity in Diversity

You know from some of our earlier stories that, when 'Abdu'l-Baha first arrived in Akka, many of the people treated Him badly. They were cruel to the Baha'is and did not want to speak to them.

Soon, however, they came to see that the Baha'is were loving and kind, and slowly most of the townspeople began to show them kindness in return. But there were a few who clung to their anger and hatred.

Now, one day, a man who still carried much hatred in his heart towards 'Abdu'l-Baha heard others praising His greatness and goodness.

The man became outraged. He would show them, he said with anger, that this Persian they all revered was not so wonderful after all. And off he went, his heart burning with anger.

He knew that 'Abdu'l-Baha could be found praying in the mosque at that hour, and he rushed there, ready to lay violent hands upon the beloved Master. But 'Abdu'l-Baha looked at the man with serenity and dignity.

Lovingly, He reminded him of the teachings of God that we are to be generous to all guests, even those that are different from us.

At this, the man realized that 'Abdu'l-Baha and the Baha'is were, indeed, like guests in Akka, in his home. And like a generous host, he should welcome them with love and treat them with kindness.