

Grade 1 Lesson 5 Story

Generosity

One day, Bahá'u'lláh sent 'Abdu'l-Bahá to inspect the work of the shepherds who were taking care of His sheep.

'Abdu'l-Bahá was a small child at the time, and the persecutions against Bahá'u'lláh and His family had not yet started.

Bahá'u'lláh then had a good deal of land in the mountains and owned large flocks of sheep. When the inspection was finished and 'Abdu'l-Bahá was ready to leave, the man who had accompanied Him said, "It is your father's custom to leave a gift for each shepherd."

'Abdu'l-Bahá became silent for a while, because He did not have anything to give them. The man, however, insisted that the shepherds were expecting something.

Then 'Abdu'l-Bahá had an idea: He would give the shepherds a few sheep from the very flock they were tending.

Bahá'u'lláh was greatly pleased when He heard about 'Abdu'l-Bahá's generous thoughts towards the shepherds.

He humorously remarked that everyone had better take good care of 'Abdu'l-Bahá because someday He would give Himself away.

Of course, this is exactly what 'Abdu'l-Bahá did for the rest of His life. He gave everything He had, each and every moment of His life, to humanity, to unite us and bring us true happiness.