Grade 1 Lesson 6 Story

Selflessness

'Abdu'l-Bahá preferred inexpensive clothes for Himself. When He had extra clothes He always gave them away to others.

One day He was going to entertain the Governor of 'Akká. His wife felt that His coat was not good enough for the occasion. Well ahead of time she went to the tailor and ordered a fine coat for 'Abdu'l-Bahá. She thought He surely would not notice that His old coat had been replaced; He desired, after all, only to be scrupulously clean.

When the day of the Governor's visit arrived, the new coat was laid out for 'Abdu'l-Bahá, but He went searching for His old one. He asked for His old coat, saying that the one laid out could not be His.

His wife attempted to explain that because of the occasion she had bought Him a new coat, but He would not accept it.

He told her that for the price of this one coat they could buy five simple ones like He normally wore. He told her that there was no reason to spend so much money on a coat just for Him. If He needed a new one, they could send the expensive coat back to the tailor and order five ordinary coats for the same amount of money.

"Then, you see, I shall not only have a new one, but I shall also have four to give to others!"