Grade 3 Lesson 1 Vignette 2:

The Jealous Passenger and the Power of Forgiveness

Forgiveness is an attribute of God, and just as God is patient and merciful with each one of us, we are to forgive one another and overlook the faults of others. In the lives of God’s Manifestations we see how they looked upon all with the eyes of forgiveness, even those who were cruel and unkind to them. Not long after the Bab declared His Mission, He set out for pilgrimage to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina with His companion Quddus. In another lesson, when we study the life of the Bab, we will learn about this pilgrimage. For now, you need to know that He and Quddus embarked on a vessel that took about two months to reach its destination. Also on board the vessel were two brothers from Shiraz. One of them was captivated by the charm and the sublime bearing of the Bab. The other brother, however, was extremely jealous of the Bab because he was treated with such respect by all those who met Him. Day by day this man became more arrogant and rude, not only towards the Bab but towards other passengers as well. At one point the captain of the vessel became so angry that he ordered the man to be seized and thrown into the sea. The Bab stepped forward and encouraged the captain to be patient. But the captain as beside himself and determined to get rid of the troublesome passenger. When the Bab noticed that the sailors were actually about to throw him overboard, He caught hold of him and earnestly requested the captain to pardon the wrongdoer. The captain was astonished. It was, after all, the Bab Who had suffered the most from the cruelty of this rude man. Yet the Bab explained that, since people who behaved in such a manner harmed only themselves, one should be tolerant and forgiving towards them.