**HANDOUT: DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION FOR PARENTS**

**Virtue: RESPECT for the ENVIRONMENT**

**What is Respect?**

Being respectful is an attitude of honoring something (people, animals, the environment) and caring about their rights. Being respectful is reflected in the courtesy with which we treat one another, the way we speak, and the way we treat other people's belongings.

**What does it mean to "Respect the Environment"?**

**(Answers adapted from: Bahá'í Statement on the Environment)**

To have a comprehensive vision of a global society, supported by universal values and principles, that inspires individuals to take responsibility for the long-term care and protection of the natural environment.

**Why Practice It?**

**Spiritual Principles**

**How Do You Practice It?**

Among the principles guiding the Bahá’í approach to conservation and sustainable development, the following are of particular importance:

* **Nature reflects the qualities and attributes of God and should, therefore, be greatly respected and cherished.**
* **All things are interconnected and flourish according to the law of reciprocity.**
* **The oneness of humanity is the fundamental spiritual and social truth shaping our age.**

**Affirmation**

I am connected with the earth and every living thing.

I care about the future of the planet.

[The environment is benefiting from my personal choices.](http://bmindful.com/affirmations/8142)

**Virtues Reflections Questions:**

1. What is one small thing I can start doing regularly, today, to help protect the environment?

**Quotable Quotes**

*“A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children.”*

—John James Audubon

*“A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.”*

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

*“Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together … all things connect.”*

—Chief Seattle

*“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”*

—Jane Goodall

Compiled by Joan Jensen