I would like to share with you a true story about Abdu’l-Baha- this is a story about the Son of Baha’u’llah, the Founder of the Bahai Faith.

Many years ago in Israel there lived a very good and holy man called Abdu’l-Baha. He was so very wise, kind and loving that everyone called him the Master. However, there was a man, an Afghan, who hated the Master’s goodness and said cruel things about him…

“This man,” he said to all, “is an imposter. Why do you speak to him? Why do you have dealings with him?” And when he passed the Master on the street he was careful to hold his robe before his face that his sight might not be defiled.

How do you think Abdu’l-Baha treated him- someone who was so mean to Him? Abdu’l-Baha, the Master, did this for the Afghan…

The Afghan was poor and lived in a mosque; he was frequently in need of food an clothing. The Master sent him both. These he accepted, but without thanks. He fell sick. The Master took him a physician (a doctor), food, medicine and money. These, also, he accepted, but as the sick man held out one hand that the physician might take his pulse, with the other he held his cloak before his face that he might not look upon the Master. For 24 years Abdu’l-Baha continued his kindness and the Afghan persisted in his hatred. Then at last one day the Afghan came to the Master’s door, and fell down, penitent and weeping, at his feet.

“Forgive me, sir,” he cried. “For 24 years I have done evil to you, for 24 years you have done good to me. Now I know I have been in the wrong.”

The Master bade him rise, and they became friends.

**What virtues does this story show? What will you remember about this story that will help you in your life?**

One day someone asked ‘Abdu’l-Bahá how one should live. His reply was, ‘Be kind to everyone.’ To Juliet Thompson, an early American Bahai, Abdul-Baha said, ‘Never let anyone speak of another unkindly in your presence. Should anyone do so, stop them. Tell them it is against the commands of Bahá’u’lláh, that He has commanded: “Love one another.” Never speak an unkind word, yourself, against anyone. If you see something wrong, let your silence be your only comment...’

(Honnold, Annamarie, Vignettes from the Life of “‘Abdu’l-Bahá, p. 39)