**One Car or Gifts for the Poor**

When 'Abdu'l-Bahá was almost seventy years old, He decided to travel to Europe and to America to tell people about Bahá'u'lláh's plan for love and peace. It was a hard drip for such an old man, who had spent so many years of His life in prison. As He travelled, people came to love Him very much. And they loved what He was doing to help the world.

One day when He was in London, a woman came to Him and happily handed Him a check. She said, "I have here a check for you from a friend who wants to buy a good car for your work in England and Europe."

The Master, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, in His kind way, answered, "I accept with grateful thanks the gift of your friend." Then He took the check into His hands. He seemed to bless it. But he handed it back to the lady and said, "I return it to be used for gifts to the poor." The friend had never before seen such unselfishness.

Adapted from *The Chosen Highway*

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**The King and the old Farmer** (from Ruhi Book 3a, page 36)

Once a king, who was visiting the countryside, came upon a ninety-year-old farmer hard at work in the field. "What are you doing?" asked the king, surprised to see such an old man working to energetically. "I'm planting date trees, Your Majesty," was his reply. "How long will it take for each tree to bear fruit?" asked the king. "Many, many years, Your Majesty. I will not live to see the fruits of these trees." "Then why are you planting them, old man?" The farmer paused for a moment and then with a tranquil voice addressed the king: "Past generations planted trees, the fruits of which I have enjoyed all my life. I, therefore, plant trees for the benefit of those who will come after me."

The king was pleased with this answer and gave him a gold coin. The old farmer smiled. "Why are you smiling so?" asked the king. The farmer replied, "These trees did not take many years to bear fruit. I have hardly finished planting them and already they have brought me a reward from my king."