



Bahá'í Winter School



Italy

2014

Hooshmand Badee

A summery of the last session

- The message is about giving hope to the world... The Bahá'í Scriptures are full of writings about *hope*
- *A world where everyone believes that the well-being of all is morally, socially and economically acceptable.*
- *But why the world is not like that, 'Abdu'l-Bahá said 'This household is not well arranged'.*
- *Happiness is the ultimate goal of both religion and economics*
- The paradox of happiness
- *What is real happiness? Can money buy happiness? Is a successful person happy?*
- We studied what 'Abdu'l-Bahá talks about joy and pain
- *Collective happiness*
- We did a comparison of measuring happiness between experts and 'Abdu'l-Bahá'í
- *10 Causes of happiness*

**Foster communities whose ways will
give hope to the world**

**The Economic Role of the Family
in Advancing Communities**

The 5 main causes of the decline of the Rome Empire

1. Breaking the family structure
2. Weakening of individual responsibility
3. Excessive taxes and government control and intervention
4. Seeking pleasure that leading to violence and immoral activities
5. The decline of religion

Advantages of forming a family

1. Specialization and exchange
2. Economies of scale
3. Public goods
4. Externalities in consumption
5. Opportunities for marriage-specific investments
6. Risk pooling
7. Institutional benefits

who is in a family, or how we define a family ?



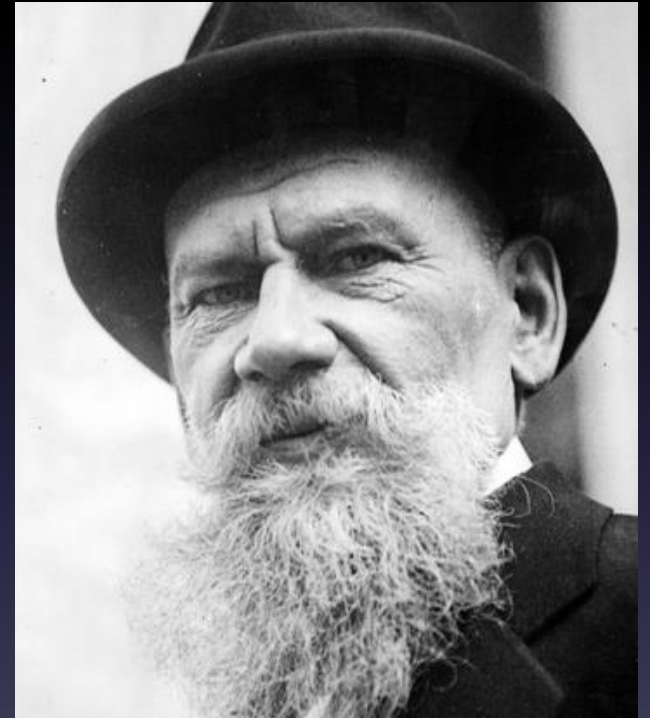
Why family is important for the individual?

- Economic provision
- Protection
- Education
- Providing moral support

If these functions of the family are fulfilled less than in the past, then the feeling of love and to be loved is felt more strongly.

Leo Tolstoy

'Happy families are all alike and every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way' .



Why is family important to the society ?

- Family is the building block of the society
- To build a society we need families, why is so? Why can't we build society with individuals?



The family and its influence on social and economic affairs

The family unit offers an ideal setting within which can be shaped those moral attributes that contribute to an appropriate view of material wealth and its utilization.

Universal House of Justice, 2 April 2010

The family, the wealth, the Bahá'í writings

The legitimacy of wealth depends, 'Abdu'l-Bahá has indicated, on how it is acquired and on how it is expended.

“Wealth is praiseworthy in the highest degree...” IF...

1. If it is acquired by an individual's own efforts
2. If it is spent for the welfare of society

2 April 2010

Bahá'u'lláh has affirmed that to every end has been assigned a means for its accomplishment.

It (wealth) is acceptable and praiseworthy to the extent that it serves as a means for achieving higher ends:

- meeting one's basic necessities,
- fostering the progress of one's family,
- promoting the welfare of society,
- and for contributing to the establishment of a world civilization.

2 April 2010

But to make the accumulation of wealth the central purpose of one's life is unworthy of any human being.

However constructive and noble the goal, however significant to one's life or to the welfare of one's family, it must not be attained through improper means.

The education of children in a family on the recognition that wealth is praiseworthy in the highest degree **IF** it is acquired by one's own efforts and spent for the welfare of society.

What are the principles of a happy family life ?

- Love: the relationship between family members must be loving, supportive, and an unconditional love.
- Family Love Account
- Family Based Capitalization
- *When the love of God is established, everything else will be realized.
This is the true foundation of all economics. Reflect upon it.*

—'Abdu'l-Bahá

Principles of happy family life...

- The principle of mutual dependency and cooperation (This is the first principle of labour market which is division of labour)
- Adam, Eve and their children are the beginning of the economic unit of humanity, which is the family.
- The entire success of the family as a living socio-economic unit is based on the fact that each enters into a covenant of mutual trust.

Principles of happy family...

work-life balance or life-work balance:

If our only interest is earning money, by that measure, the U.S. comes out on top which require "work-life-balance". If our primary interest is joy of life, we might place the greatest weight to life satisfaction, or "life-work-balance", and that would put Denmark at first, as well as Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. Put another way, America is a good place to make money, but it's not as much fun or as fulfilling to live there.

Principles of happy family...

- Equality of women and men
- The traditional division of labor is not the optimal arrangement.
- Elimination of discrimination against women
- The law of comparative advantage



Thank You



Hooshmand Badee

h.badee@gmail.com

www.hooshmandbadee.com