

A Play: The Teacher's Pet

By Ian Fosdar



Narrator: *This is a play called 'The Teacher's Pet'.....but it is really about a very important Baha'i teaching. See if you can see which teaching it is.*

Teacher: Good Morning. I'm your new teacher, Miss Goodwin. I'll be teaching your class this term.
Would you please tell me your names ?

Sam: *(Putting up his hand)* My name is Sam.

Shaun: *(Putting up his hand)* I'm Shaun.

Teacher: It's well known amongst teachers that all the best students live close to the university. Do any of you live close to the university?

Shaun: *(Putting up his hand)* I do...I do.....I live only 5 minutes away.....

Teacher: Only 5 minutes ?! I'm so pleased to have you in my class.....You must be very, very clever.

Shaun:Well, I try not to think about it, because it's difficult being a genius.....

Teacher: How close to the university do you live, Sam ?

Sam : *(Quietly)* I live about an hour away.....

Teacher: *(Laughing)* An hour ! Well, I suppose it's too much to expect two star pupils in one class....But an hour.....You must be very slow.....

Sam : Actually, I'm quite good in school.

Teacher: Now, now.....don't tell lies....You live an hour from the university and we all know what that means.

Shaun: He's thick, Miss.....He's got a nice smile but he's thick....!

Sam : I'm not, I'm not !

Teacher: Quiet Sam, while Shaun is speaking. I won't have you talking to my favourite pupil that way.

(Shaun kicks Sam's chair without the teacher seeing).

- Now let's have a little quiz to see how much you know. When is the Baha'i New Year, Naw-Ruz ?

Sam : *(Putting up his hand)* I know, I know !

Teacher: Quiet Sam, I'm asking Shaun - I'll give you a clue Shaun.....it's in March.

Shaun: *(Slowly)* Emm....Is it the 18th.....or the 19th.....or the 20th....or the 21st.....

Teacher: (Clapping) Well done Shaun. March 21st is absolutely correct. I knew you were a star pupil and you've proved it ! Well done !

- Now Sam, when is the 9th day of Ridvan and what happened on that day?

Sam : The 9th day of Ridvan is on April 29th, and happened in the Ridvan Garden in Baghdad.....but I don't know what happened then.

Teacher: *(Angrily)* Sam, that is terrible. Why can't you be like Shaun who gets everything right all the time ?

Sam : But you helped him.....

Shaun: *(Fiercely)* She did not. I knew it all along.....February 2nd....err, I mean March 21st.

Teacher: Now Sam, don't be jealous of Shaun. Not everyone can be a genius like him.

Sam : *(Grumbling)* It's not fair.....

Teacher: *(Loudly)* Sam !

Sam : By the way, where do you live, teacher ?

Teacher: *(Snappily)* That's none of your business.

Shaun: *(Interested)* No, go on, tell us.....

Teacher: Alford.

Sam : *(Surprised)* Alford ?.....that's where I live !

Shaun: *(Sneering)* You must be as thick as him, teacher.

Teacher: *(Protesting)* No, I'm not.....I'm not !

Shaun: It's an hour from Alford to the university.....No wonder you're such a bad teacher !

Teacher: I'm not.....I'm not..... I'm not.....

Shaun: Come on, Sam.....I don't think where you live has anything to do with it.....But let's go and find a proper teacher who knows not to be prejudiced

(Shaun & Sam leave class).

Narrator: *People should be treated according to the way they are, and not because of where they live, or their skin colour, or their race, or religion. Baha'u'llah says, 'Ye are all the fruits of one tree and the leaves of one branch'.*

The End