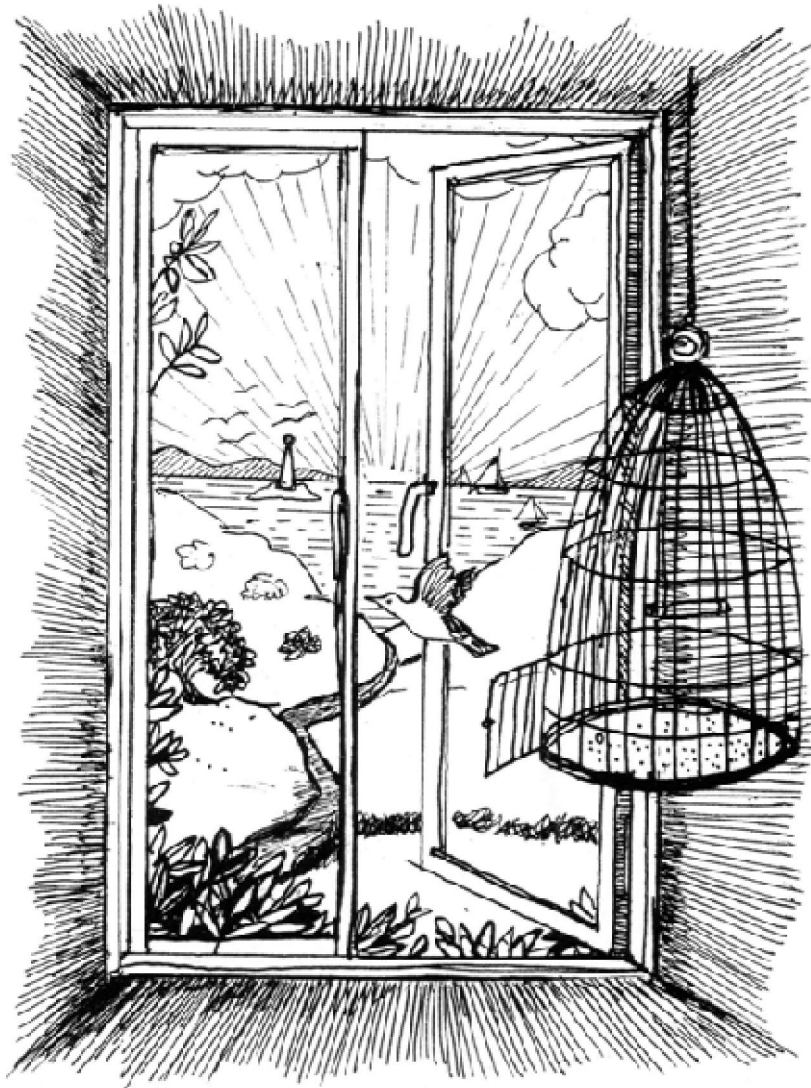


DAYS PRING



A Bahá'í Magazine for Children
Issue 74

Dayspring

Produced under the auspices of the National Spiritual Assembly
of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom

Photographs of children: Under the terms of the Child Protection Act, great care must be taken in the publishing of images of children. Parental permission must be received. Permission cannot be implied by the sending of a photograph but must be given in writing or by email direct from the child's parent or guardian.

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Others may subscribe as follows:

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Acknowledgements

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p.8 The artist of the picture to colour and the cover is Sarah Swainne-Nisbet.

November 2009 – February 2010
Issue 74

*"Thou art My light and My light shall
never be extinguished...."*

Bahá'u'lláh

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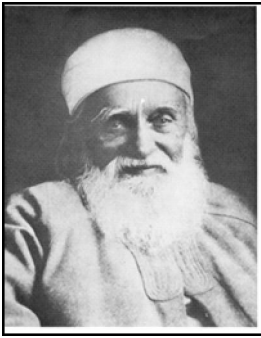
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**"The spirit of man
has a beginning,
but it has no end;
it continues eternally."**

`Abdu'l-Bahá





Meeting `Abdu'l-Bahá

"The Old Watchman"

It was a very hot day. In the afternoon everyone expected that `Abdu'l-Bahá would rest. But He said He wished to go to the Natural History Museum. The believers could not understand why He wanted to go out when it was so hot.

They walked with Him through the city. There were no trees to shade them from the sun. At last they came within sight of the museum. `Abdu'l-Bahá sat down on a stone wall to rest, feeling very tired.

One of the Bahá'ís, who was called Juliet, offered to find out if there was a door nearby which led into the museum so that `Abdu'l-Bahá would not have to walk all the way up to the main entrance. Eventually, she found a watchman who looked after the grounds. He was a Jew, very old and bent and with a kind face. He said that the only door that was open was the main one and they could take a short-cut over the grass to reach it.

The watchman led the way and `Abdu'l-Bahá and the friends went into the museum. In one room they saw the skeleton of a huge whale hanging from the ceiling. In another room there was some art from Mexico and lovely Persian

bracelets. `Abdu'l-Bahá decided not to go into the rest of the



rooms and returned to the front door and went out into the garden. He sat on the grass beneath a tree. The Bahá'ís stood around, wondering what was going to happen next. The old watchman reappeared.

"Is He tired?" he whispered, looking at `Abdu'l-Bahá. "Who is He? He looks like such a great man. I would like to speak with Him."

Juliet took the watchman to `Abdu'l-Bahá. `Abdu'l-Bahá's eyes were bright and kind as He looked at the old watchman.

"Come and sit by me," He said.

The watchman said he was not allowed to sit on the grass, so `Abdu'l-Bahá stood up and they talked together.

"You didn't see the whole of the museum," said the watchman. "You didn't go up to the third floor. The fossils and birds are up there."

`Abdu'l-Bahá smiled. "I am tired of travelling and looking at the things of this world," He said. "I want to go above and travel and see in the next world." His eyes twinkled as he looked at the watchman. "What do you think about that?"

The watchman wasn't sure! He told `Abdu'l-Bahá that he

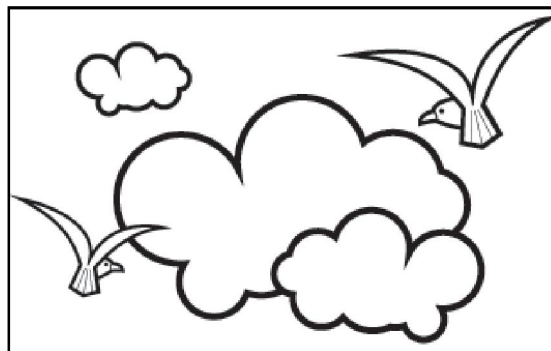
did not want to die and leave this world. `Abdu'l-Bahá told him that there was no need to be worried. He said that this world is like a room in a house. Going to the next world is just like going upstairs.

“Oh, I see!” said the watchman happily. “I see!”

But that was not the end of the story. When Juliet returned home, she wished she had invited the watchman to one of the Bahá'í meetings. A week later she went back by herself to the museum to invite him to come.

When she arrived, she could not find him anywhere. Instead, there was a new, young watchman working there. Juliet asked him where the old man was, but he did not know anything about him. Then Juliet guessed what had happened.

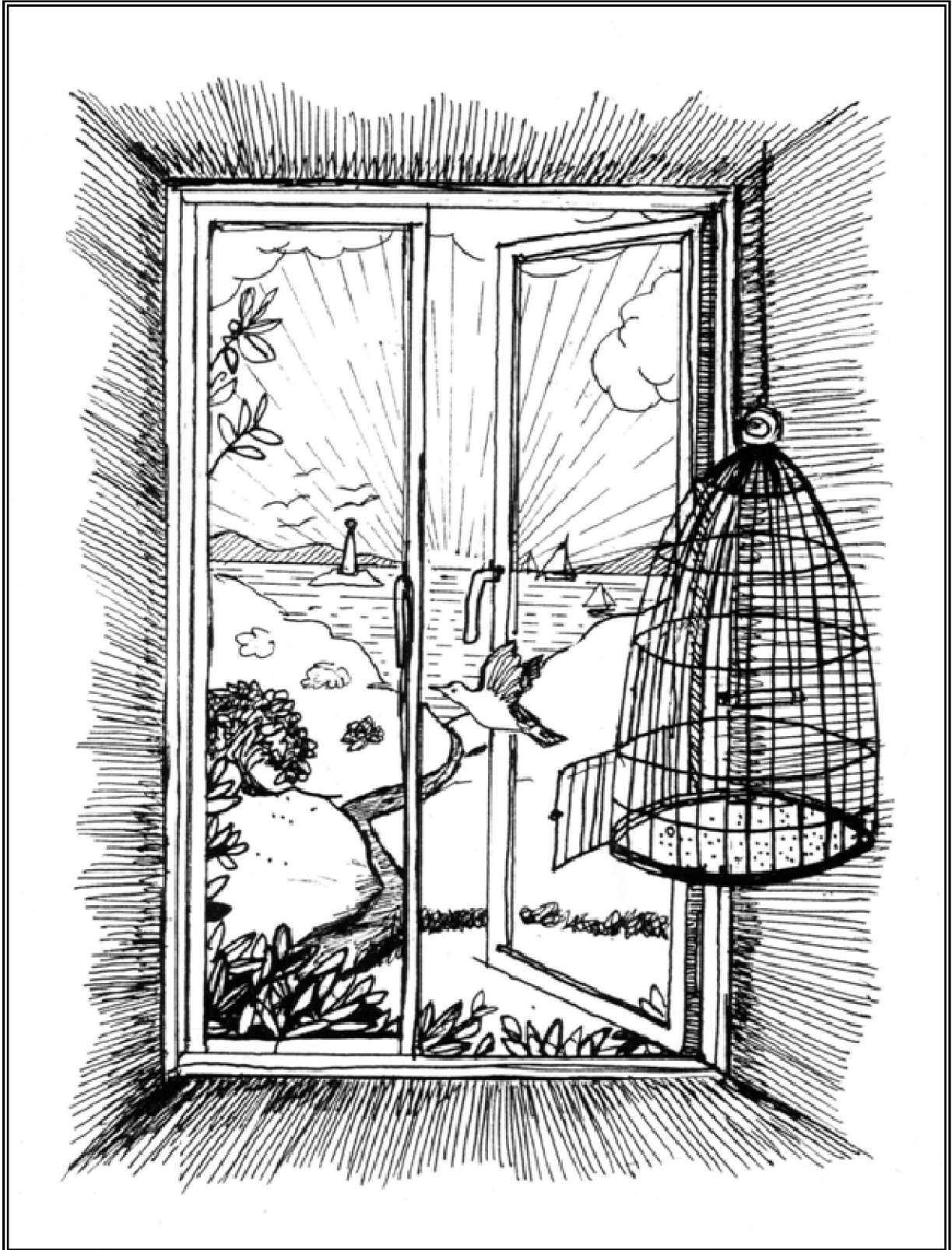
After their visit the week before, the old watchman must have died. And that was why `Abdu'l-Bahá had gone to the museum. It was not because He wanted to see the whale or Persian bracelets. He wanted to see the old watchman and tell him that he did not need to be afraid of dying.

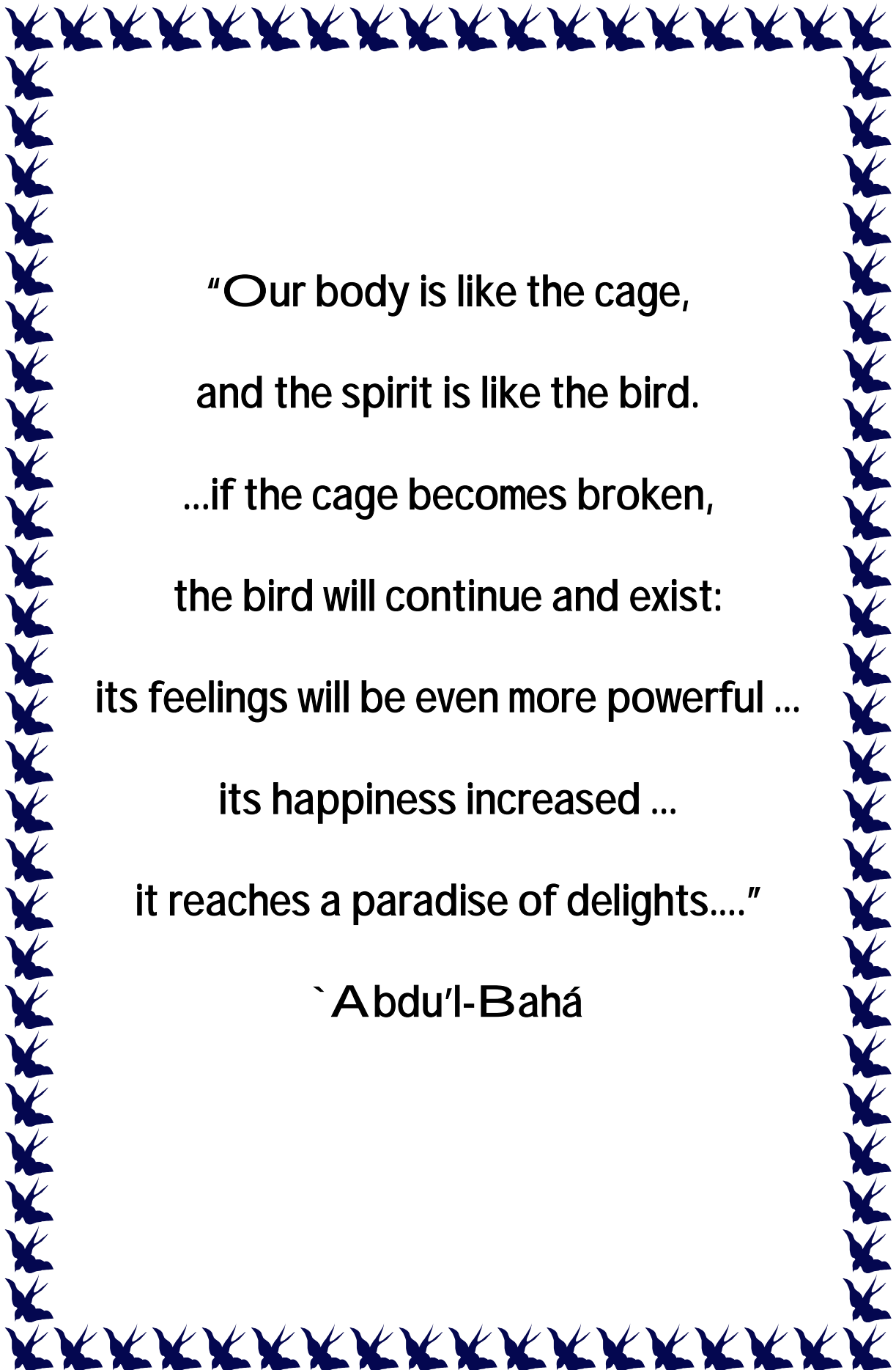


A Picture to Colour

by Sarah Swainne-Nisbett

(use pencil crayons, not felt tips, otherwise it will show through on the previous page)





“Our body is like the cage,
and the spirit is like the bird.
...if the cage becomes broken,
the bird will continue and exist:
its feelings will be even more powerful ...
its happiness increased ...
it reaches a paradise of delights...”

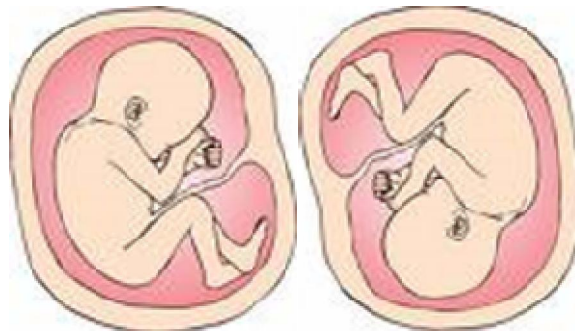
‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Max and Milly

by J.M.

Max and Milly floated in the warm water. They were twins and hadn't been born yet. They were still in the dark, safe world of their mother's womb. Now and again they did a somersault and bounced gently off the soft wall around them. Because they were not identical twins, they were each wrapped in their own very thin bag called a sac, but they could feel each other moving.

Sometimes Max found he was sucking his thumb. But he didn't know it was his thumb as his eyes were closed. And he didn't know what it was called either because no one had told him yet.



Once when Milly was doing a somersault she touched her toes. Now, that felt interesting. They were wriggly and warm. They must be useful for something, she thought, but she couldn't think what!

"Ahhh!" said Max, which came out as a gurgle rather than a sound because his lungs were full of water, not air.

What's that? Some rubbery things were stuck to either side of his head. If he folded them over they sprung back. And what was that little blob of fat in the middle of his face? Maybe it had grown there by mistake.

Nine months passed and Max and Milly had grown so big there was no room to swim about any more. It was so tight, Milly's little nose touched her

knees. And when Max tried to stretch his legs, his feet pushed against the sides and his mother laughed and said, "Oh! He's kicking me!" but it didn't hurt.

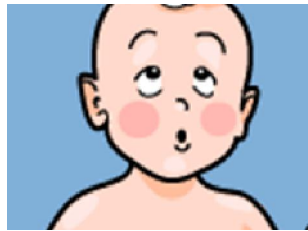
It was very cosy being so close together and the twins wanted to stay there always.

Then one day Max noticed that there was more room in the womb. He stretched out his arms to find Milly but she had disappeared!

"Oh no!" thought Max. "Where has she gone? She must have died!" He was very sad and thought she had disappeared for ever.

He was feeling so lonely he would have cried if he could, but he hadn't learnt how to do that yet. Then, a few minutes later, he felt something strange happening. He was slipping out of his nice warm home in the womb.

"Help!" he cried as he slithered through and popped out into the world.



When he got tired of yelling, Max opened his eyes and for the first time saw Milly! She hadn't died after all and was waiting for him, looking very pleased with herself. She was already wrapped up in a soft fluffy shawl and being held in one of their mother's arms. Max felt himself being gently wrapped in a shawl as well and laid in their mother's other arm. He thought she smelled lovely.

Max and Milly looked at the sunlight streaming through the window. They smelled the flowers in the vase by the bed. They heard the voice of their mother telling them that she loved them. And they felt her soft lips as she kissed them on the tops of their heads. Then she gave them some warm milk to drink.

"Eyes, nose, ears, mouth! So that is what they are for!" thought Max and Milly together.



Max looked down and discovered his feet sticking out and thought he was seeing double because there were two of them. He glanced over to Milly and she waved her hands and smiled at him.

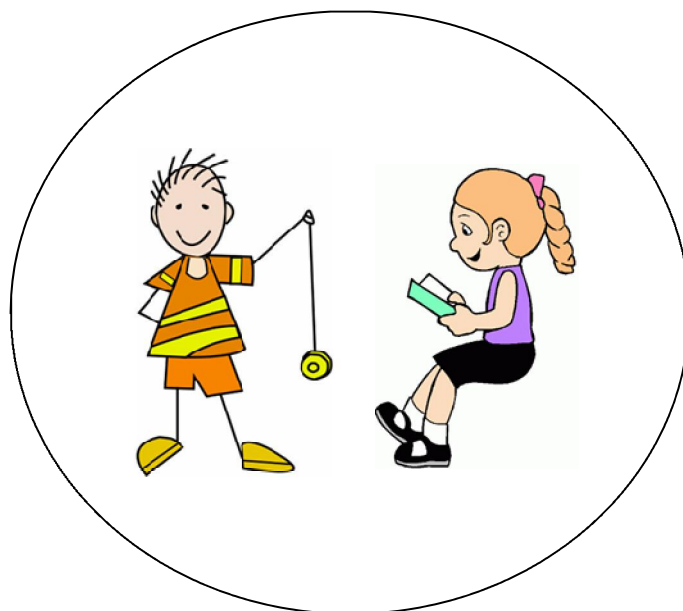


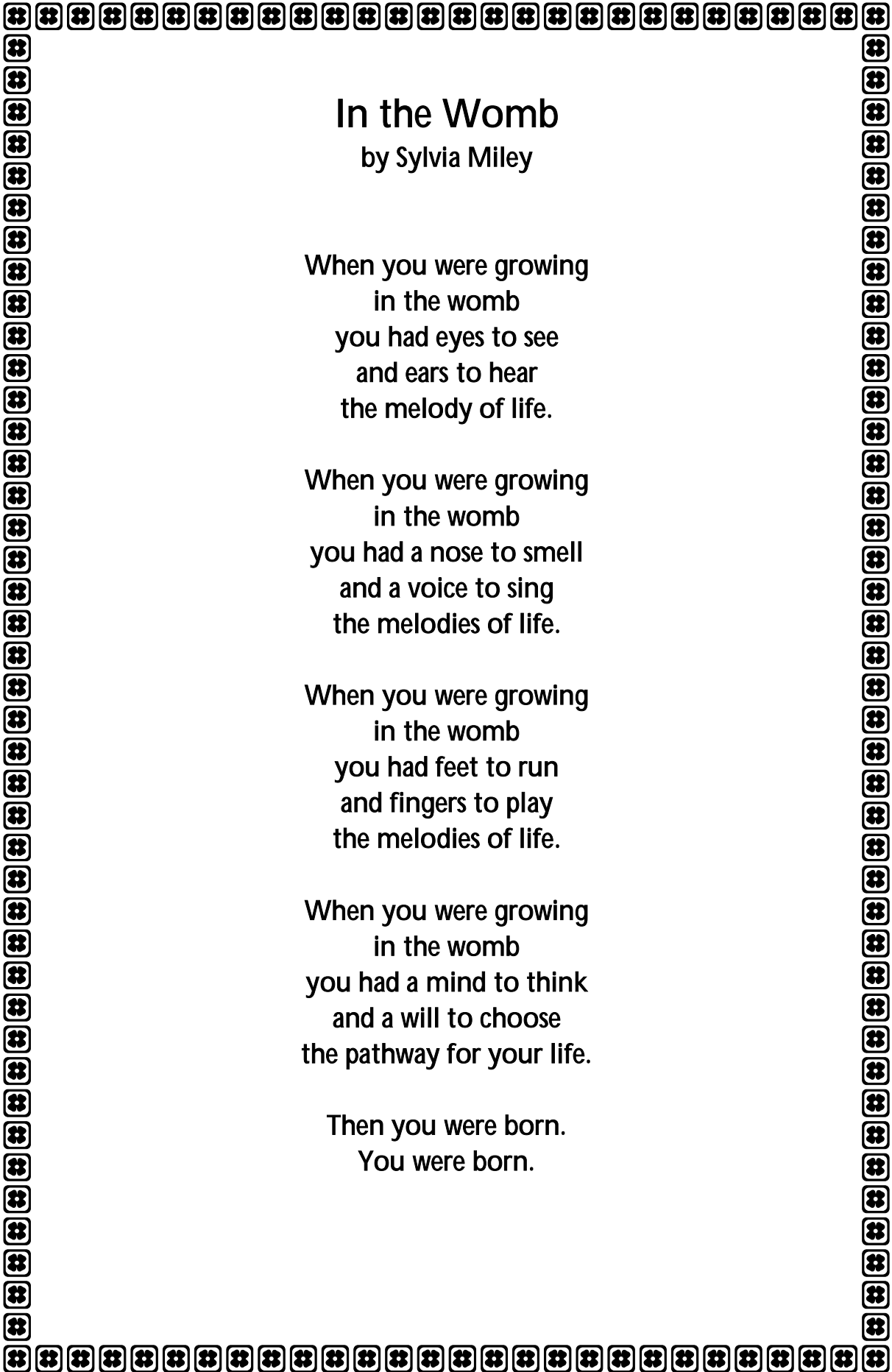
This world was much more interesting than the world they had come from, he decided. So many colours. So much to see. So much to discover. And that milk was delicious!

Their mother smiled. She knew that this was the beginning of an exciting journey for the twins, and that one day, when our bodies die, our souls will be born into yet another world of God that is even more beautiful than this one.

And just as there is nothing to be afraid of in being born into this world, she knew that there is nothing to be afraid of in being born into the next one either.

"When Milly and Max are older," their father and mother said to each other, "we will tell them all about it."





In the Womb

by Sylvia Miley

When you were growing
in the womb
you had eyes to see
and ears to hear
the melody of life.

When you were growing
in the womb
you had a nose to smell
and a voice to sing
the melodies of life.

When you were growing
in the womb
you had feet to run
and fingers to play
the melodies of life.

When you were growing
in the womb
you had a mind to think
and a will to choose
the pathway for your life.

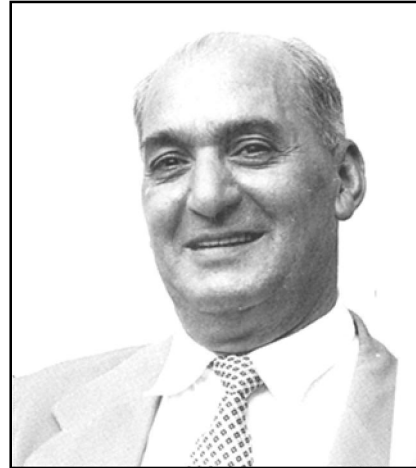
Then you were born.
You were born.

Hands of the Cause of God

Músá Banání

(1886-1971)

Musa Banani was born in Baghdad in 1886. When he was four years old, his father died and the family became very poor. At the time everyone had to pay to go to school but there was no money to send Musa so he never did learn how to read and write properly, and the only language he could speak was the old Hebrew language the family spoke.



When he was 17, he travelled to the neighbouring country of Iran to work as a merchant. He stayed with his older brother, I shraq, who had left home a few years earlier.



Musa was surprised when he learned that his brother had become a Bahá'í. At the time, he did not believe in any religion and didn't want to know anything about it.

The authorities were against the Bahá'í Faith and were imprisoning and even killing anyone they discovered was a Bahá'í. They saw a photograph of people at a Bahá'í meeting and one of them was

I shraq. Being brothers, I shraq and Musa looked very alike and when the police later saw Musa walking down the street they thought he was I shraq and arrested him and put him in prison with several others.

Musa shared a cell with a frail old man who had also been arrested. Musa was very upset when the authorities tortured the old man to make him say he did not believe in Bahá'u'lláh. But whatever cruel thing they did to him, the old man would not deny his Faith.

Musa explained to the authorities that he, himself, was not a Bahá'í, and he was freed. But afterwards he felt guilty for what he had said. He told himself off, saying,

“How can I say I am not a Bahá'í when I don't even know what it is all about?”

He was so moved and impressed by the old man's courage, he decided to study the Faith properly and learn more about it. And two years later he became a Bahá'í.

Musa worked hard and became a successful merchant, even though he was not educated. He had a pure heart and was humble and honest. In 1934 he went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land and met Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith. Shoghi Effendi said that Musa Banani was so good he was equal to a



thousand other people! In 1950, when Shoghi Effendi asked the friends to pioneer to Uganda in Africa to teach the Faith, Musa and his family were among the first to go.

Musa did not speak the language or know anything about the country he was going to, but he sold his business at once, left his comfortable life and went to Africa with his wife, his daughter, his son-in-law and granddaughter.

Two years later Shoghi Effendi announced that Musa Banani was a Hand of the Cause of God. Musa was so humble he said that his son-in-law should be the Hand of the Cause, not him!

"I am not worthy," said Musa. "I cannot read or write. My tongue is not eloquent."

But Shoghi Effendi said it was not a mistake, and that God had another great plan for Musa's beloved son-in-law!

Musa Banani achieved wonderful things for Africa and he was loved by everyone. By the time he died there were over 40,000 new Bahá'ís in Central and East Africa.



During the last ten years of his life he did not keep well. He was paralysed on one side, had a leg amputated and lost the sight of one eye. But he was always happy. And when he could no longer walk or travel, he spent his time praying for Bahá'í communities who were facing difficulties.

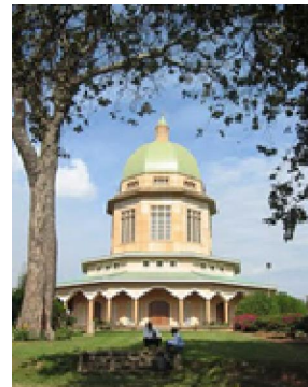
When he died in 1971, the Universal of Justice sent a cable to the Bahá'ís of the world praising the dearly loved Hand of the Cause Musa Banani, saying that Shoghi Effendi had called him the "SPIRITUAL CONQUEROR" of Africa.

He is buried in the shade of the beautiful Bahá'í Temple which is built on one of the five hills overlooking the town of Kampala.

The First House of Worship on the Continent of Africa



In 1954, Shoghi Effendi's wife, Rúhiyyih Khánum, and Musa Banani carefully placed a silver box under the foundation stone of the Temple. Inside the box was



some holy earth from the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh and some plaster from the castle of Mákú where the Báb had been imprisoned.

The Temple was completed several years later, and Bahá'ís from far and wide were invited to come to celebrate. But when the police heard, they were worried as there were many different tribes in the area and some of them were enemies of each other. The police were sure there would be fighting when all these warring tribes came together.

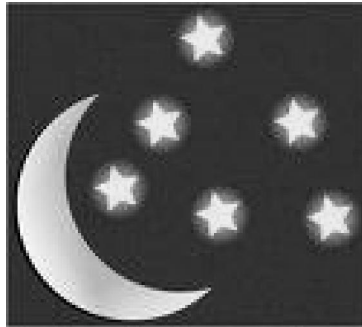
The day of the dedication of the Temple arrived and the police came armed with guns to prevent any trouble. I imagine their surprise when members of the different tribes, who were now Bahá'ís, went up to each other and hugged and shook hands, smiling and saying "Alláh-u-Abhá! God is Glorious!" It was like a miracle and nothing but the love of Bahá'u'lláh could have made them friends. The police could not believe their eyes.



Everyone went into the beautiful Temple to sing and say prayers of thanksgiving to God. Inside it was very colourful. The Persian Bahá'ís had sent a present of red and white carpets, while Shoghi Effendi had sent a gift of a precious carpet from the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh.

Pippa's Dream

by J.M.



Pippa was sad because her grandma had died and she missed her very much. One day she was lying in bed thinking about all the things they had enjoyed doing together, like collecting shells and looking for fossils and guessing the names of birds by their singing. They had travelled on buses to the most interesting places, and the best thing of all was that she could talk to her grandma about anything at all.

Pippa smiled as she fell asleep thinking about her grandma, and she had a beautiful dream...

"Pippa!" said a voice, warm and familiar. "Pippa! Over here!"

Pippa looked, but at first she couldn't see anything. Then, slowing, she saw the smiling face of her grandma, who was so radiant, the light filled Pippa's eyes so she couldn't see anything else.

"You can ask me anything you like!" said Grandma, "but you need to be quick!"

"Anything?" asked Pippa, hardly able to believe her ears or eyes.

"Anything!" said Grandma.

"Are you lonely?" asked Pippa, which was the first thing that came into her head. She knew she was, so thought her grandma might be too.

"Goodness no, not at all!" said Grandma. "You see, all the people I have loved and who have already died are here! But we don't look like we did on earth. Here it is different. Abdu'l-Bahá explains that *'in the divine worlds the spiritual beloved ones will recognize one another, and will seek union with each other, but a spiritual union'*. Here we can see with spiritual eyes which we didn't have on earth."

"Oh," said Pippa, not sure exactly what spiritual eyes were but guessing she would find out one day. She was glad that her grandma was among friends, but there was one thing that still worried her.

"Will you forget me now?" she asked, sadly.

"Of course not!" said Grandma with a chuckle. "I will never forget you, because I love you. `Abdu'l-Bahá says that *'a love that one may have ... for anyone will not be forgotten in the world of the Kingdom.'*

"What's the world of the Kingdom?" asked Pippa, feeling much happier.

"I suppose the world where I am now," said Grandma.

"Is it nice?" asked Pippa.

"Very," said Grandma, "The most wonderful things you can imagine are here. Bahá'u'lláh promises that *'days of blissful joy, of heavenly delight, are assuredly in store for you'*. Here, we are surrounded by love and *'immersed in light'*. Our souls are free and happy. You will know what I mean when you get here!

"But right now," she added, "you need to be on earth where you can help people and tell them about God and Bahá'u'lláh."

"Will you pray for me?" asked Pippa, "so I will be able to do that?"

"Yes," said Grandma, her voice full of love. "And please pray for me too! `Abdu'l-Bahá says your prayers on earth have *'a great influence in the other world'* and that we should pray for each other."

"I will," said Pippa, as the image of her grandma began to fade away. "I promise."

She opened her eyes and found it was morning. The dream was still in her head but it was disappearing fast. She just managed to remember the promise she had made to pray for her grandma before it faded away altogether.

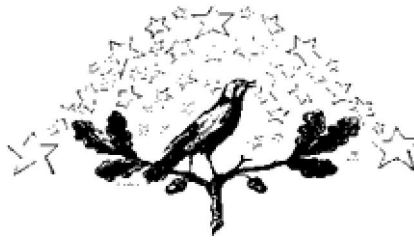


Can you remember...?

It is a strange thing, but we don't always remember our dreams when we wake up. It happened to Pippa and I expect it has happened to you as well. Pippa did remember one thing from her dream, though, and that was to pray for her grandma, just as her grandma was praying for her.

Can you remember some of the things her grandma replied in answer to Pippa's questions? Especially when her grandma was quoting from the words of Bahá'u'lláh and `Abdu'l-Bahá? Fill in the quotations on the next page and it will help you remember.

Fill in the gaps
from the words
listed above each
quotation



See if you can
learn
the quotations
by heart

1. divine beloved recognize union spiritual

“in the worlds the spiritual ones will
..... one another, and will seek with each
other, but a union.”

(`Abdu'l-Bahá)

2. love anyone forgotten Kingdom

“a that one may have for will not be
.....in the world of the’

(`Abdu'l-Bahá)

3. days blissful delight you

“..... of joy, of heavenly,
are assuredly in store for”

(Bahá'u'lláh)

4. find heaven immersed light

“Thou shalt me in the of the Lord,
..... in”

(`Abdu'l-Bahá)

5. prayer influence world pray them you

“sincere has a great in the other”

“..... for as they pray for!”

(`Abdu'l-Bahá)



Giant Steps

by Susan Engle

Grandpa Joe led Johnny, running
Through the magic, sparkling snow.
The smiling sun shone down on footsteps
Big boots, small boots, row on row.

Winters passed. Now Johnny's steps
Were next to Grandpa's, side by side.
Arm in arm, they broke through snow crusts,
Leaving prints both deep and wide.

"Watch out, Gramps. I'm catching up.
My steps match yours these days. You see?"
"That's fine, my grandson," laughed his grandpa.
"That's the way it's s'posed to be."

One winter came when Grandpa Joe
Remained in bed all day and night.
"Won't you come and make new snow prints?"
Johnny asked. "The moon is bright."

Grandpa smiled. "My walks are heading
Toward a shining, distant land.
Someday, John, I'll see you leap
To meet me there and take my hand."





“But Grandpa, I will miss you here.”
And tears fell gently from his eyes.
Grandpa Joe reached out to hold him,
Wiping tears and soothing sighs.

“My Johnny, you and I are walking
Down a path that has no end.
It’s just my time for giant steps.
But you’ll catch up with me again.”

When spring came, Grandpa Joe had gone.
And even though they couldn’t talk,
Johnny knew his grandpa joined him
Every time he took a walk.

Through sixty winters, John remembers
Sunny times with Grandpa Joe,
Especially when he takes *his* grandson
Running in the sparkling snow.





Who's there?
Jess!
Jess who?
Jess if you can recognize my voice!

Jokes

Why did the biscuit go to
the doctor?

Because he was
feeling crummy!



What did the duck
say when he bought
lipstick?

Put it on my bill!



How do
porcupines play
leap-frog?

Very carefully!

What is bigger when it is upside
down?

The number 6!

What is worse than
raining cats and dogs?

Hailing taxis!



What can you hold without
touching it?

Your breath!



Riddles



1

There was a girl in our town,
Silk an' satin was her gown,
Silk an' satin, gold an' velvet,
Guess her name, three times I've telled it.

What is her name?

2

Thirty-two white
horses upon a red hill,
Now they tramp, now
they champ, now they
stand still.

What are they?

3

As I was going to St. Ives,
I met a man with seven wives,
Every wife had seven sacks,
Every sack had seven cats,
Every cat had seven kits -
Kits, cats, sacks, and wives,
How many were going to
St. Ives?

???

4

Little Nanny Etticoat,
In a white petticoat,
And a red nose;
The longer she stands,
The shorter she grows.

What is she?

5

Thomas a Tattamus took two Ts
To tie two tups to two tall trees,
To frighten the terrible Thomas
a Tattamus!

THAT!

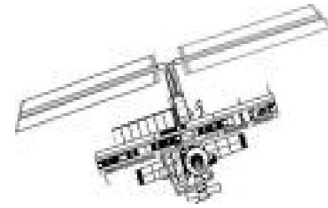
???

- Answers
1. Ann
 2. Teeth
 3. One person
 4. A candle
 5. Two

News from Space!

“First Butterfly Chrysalis on Space Station”

(adapted from a news report)



The butterfly has many stages in its life—egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly. When it is in the chrysalis form it looks as though it is dead, but lo and behold, a few days later out pops a beautiful butterfly with wings!

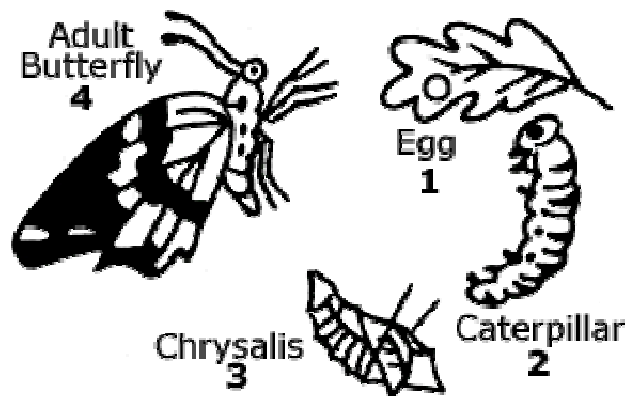
Several caterpillars were taken by Space Shuttle Atlantis to the International Space Station recently. And one of them has done something a caterpillar has never done before – it has turned into a chrysalis in space.

It would appear that it is dealing with microgravity conditions just fine by attaching itself to the side of its special space station habitat and wrapping itself in a cocoon.

The butterflies (painted lady and monarch) are part of an outreach experiment organized by BioServe Space Technologies and the University of Colorado. Students can follow the progress of the orbital butterflies and compare the results with ones living on the ground. Small educational projects like this are superb for getting young people engaged with space science.

I wonder if the chrysalis has successfully turned into a butterfly and become the first butterfly to fly in space? Well, at least the first to fly inside a Space Shuttle in space!

You can find out what happened by following the progress of the butterfly at <http://news.discovery.com/space/first-butterfly-chrysalis-on-space-station.html>



Amazing Stories from the Dawn-Breakers

Stories adapted by Jacqueline Mehrabi and illustrated by Malcolm Lee (published by the BPT of India)

(The story so far: *The Sháh has invited the Báb to visit him in Tihran, but on the way the Báb a message arrives saying the Sháh has changed his mind. Now, the Báb is now being taken as a prisoner to the north of the country.*)

Part 20

The Journey to Tabriz

News travelled fast about the Báb's arrest. A believer called Hujjat was in Tihrán when he heard the news. At once he sent a message to his friends telling them to rescue the Báb, who was on his way to Tabríz. A few of them set off and on the way were joined by other believers.



It was midnight when they came upon a camp where the guards and the Báb had stopped for the night. They soon found the tent where the Báb was sleeping and begged him to escape with them. But the Báb was not worried about being a prisoner. He knew

that nothing could stop Him doing what God wanted Him to do. If it was part of God's plan that He be imprisoned, then He would not do anything to change that. But He thanked the friends who had come to help Him and lovingly advised them to return to their homes.

During this journey to the north-west corner of Persia, the guards noticed how kind the Báb was to everyone He met. The government had given Him money to pay for His food, but He gave it all away to the poor.

At one village, an old woman arrived with a child whose head had been badly scalded. The Báb called the child to Him and healed him.

After several weeks, they arrived at the gates of Tabríz. The guards had tears in their eyes because they had come to love the Báb and now had to hand Him over to the governor of the town who may not treat Him kindly.



Just before they reached the gates, a youth came running towards them. His feet were bare and his face was glowing with excitement. As he came to the guards riding in front of the Báb, he greeted them warmly.

"You are the companions of my Well-Beloved!" he told them.

They allowed him through and when he caught sight of the Báb he cried out in joy, fell to the ground and burst into tears. The Báb got down from His horse and put His

arms around the young man. He wiped away the youth's tears and calmed him down.

As the Báb was led through Tabríz, hundreds of people lined the roads.

"Alláh-u-Akba!" they shouted as the Báb passed by. "God is Great!"



Some of them even kissed the ground where the Báb had walked.

The governor of Tabríz was not pleased. The Báb was supposed to be a prisoner and yet the people were welcoming Him as though He were a King!

(To be continued)



The Kitáb-i-Aqdas ~ The Most Holy Book

Lesson Twelve

In the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, Bahá'u'lláh says the following should be engraved on burial rings and worn by adults when they are buried. (v. 129):

"I came from God,
and return unto Him,
detached from all save Him,
holding fast to His Name,
the Merciful, the Compassionate."

Let us think about this verse

1. Who do we come from?
2. Who do we return to?
3. a) What should we hold fast to?
- b) What do you think "holding fast to His Name" means?
.....
4. What are the two words at the end that are describing God's Name?
.....

Things we Need for this World and the Next



While you were in the womb of your mother, what physical things did you grow that were useful for this world? Make a short list of some of these.

(You can find some of these mentioned in the poem on page 13.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

In a similar way, during our life in this world, we need to help our souls to grow in preparation for life in the next world. `Abdu'l-Bahá says:

“Therefore in this world he must prepare himself for the life beyond.”

Can you think of ways you can prepare your soul for when you go to the next world? What virtues will help your soul grow and develop? Make a short list of some of these. (One example is when you turn to God and pray.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Of course, looking after our souls helps us to be happy in both this world and the next!

