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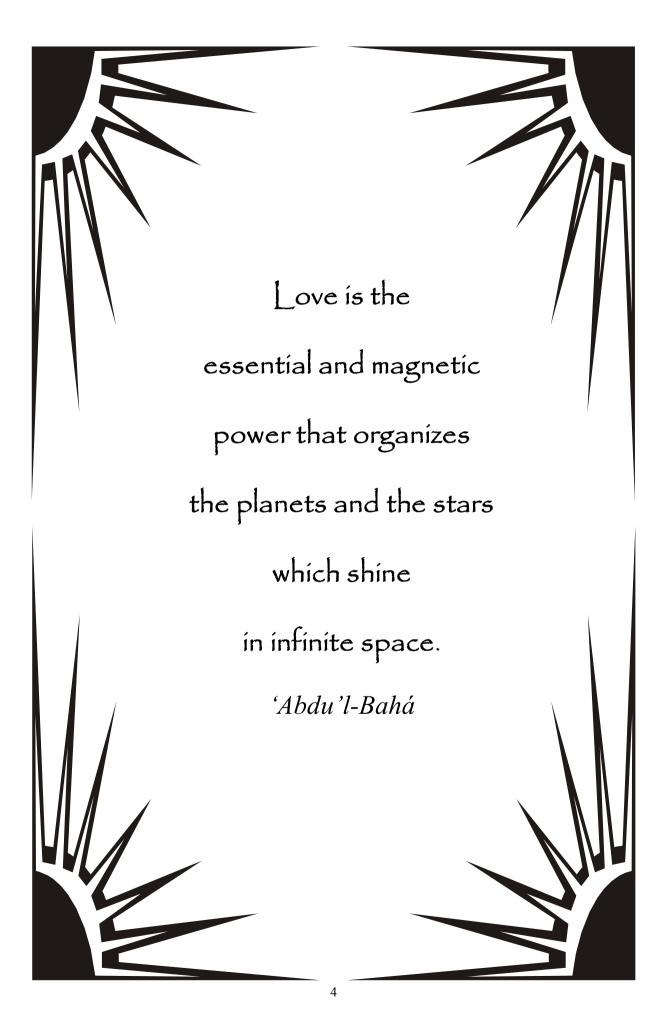
'Praise God, O sun and moon! Praise Him, all you twinkling stars!' Psalm 1.48

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Meeting 'Abdu'l-Bahá

"Shining our Light on the World"

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********** 'Abdu'l-Bahá was on board a ship about to sail from America to England — two thousand miles across the

米 Atlantic Ocean. 米

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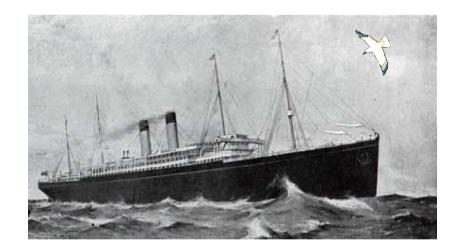
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米 All the friends were sad to see Him leave and many were in tears. ⋇ But as the ship sailed out of the harbour, they remembered His last 米 words to them, telling them to become like brilliant lamps that shine their 米 * light on the world. 米

**** Every day, even when the weather was stormy and the sea was rough, 米 ** 米 'Abdu'l-Bahá would walk up and down the deck to get His daily exercise. 米



********* * During a particularly wild storm, one of the believers travelling with Him ⋇ described how the wind was whipping up the sea and scattering the white * * foam into the sky, like snowflakes! As the storm became wilder and the 米 waves rose like mountains, 'Abdu'l-Bahá said that He hoped we would also * * become as strong and full of energy as those waves and spread the teach-* * 米 ings of Bahá'u'lláh far and wide so everyone in the world could hear them. 米 ∦ 米 On another evening, when the stars were shining and the sea was

* 尜

* * 米 calm, 'Abdu'l-Bahá was walking on the deck as usual with some of the



Fill in the gaps from the story above

棠	calli, Abau - Bana was waiking on the aeck as usual with some of the							
米米	friends when He pointed							
米	to a pure white light in the second							
***	sky. It was the planet							
✻	· Venus, which is the near-							
*	est planet to us here on \star							
不米	est planet to us here on Earth. It is the brightest							
*	and hottest of all the							
***	planets that circle round							
	our Sun. Its name, Venus,							
****	means love and beauty.							
*	As 'Abdu'l-Bahá gazed							
不米	at the beautiful planet, He							
✻	said it was His fondest							
* *	hope that we would rejoice	D201						
不米	the hearts and illumine the Planet Venus ©2013 Fred Espenak. www.AstroPixels.com							
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米米	Fill in the gaps from the story above	-						
* *	7							
*	B L	-						
* *	2. The planet nearest to us is called Venus. What does its name mean?							
尔 米	2. The planet hearest to us is cancel venus, what does its hame mean.							
*	L and B	-						
************	3. What did 'Abdu'l-Bahá say His fondest hope was? That we would							
が米	rejoice the H and illumine the S of							
*		-						
彩水	everyone on earth.							
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⋇	***************************************							

6

The Planet Venus

The planet Venus is almost the same size as Earth. Because of this, and also because it is the nearest planet to us, people say Venus and Earth are like sisters. But although Venus has mountains, valleys, volcanoes, craters and plains, just as Earth does, no people live there, and no trees or flowers grow. And it is so hot we would melt if we stood on it! It is covered in a thick blanket of shiny gas that reflects the Sun, which is why it shines so brightly.

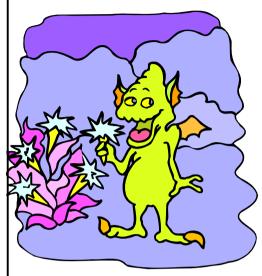
Except for the moon, which is brighter, Venus is the second brightest thing we can see in the sky at night. It can be seen most clearly in the western sky shortly after sunset and in the eastern sky just before sunrise.

$ \diamond \diamond$	$\overleftrightarrow \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar$
☆	\bigstar
Venus	\bigstar
	☆
☆ You shine so bright	☆ ☆
☆ among the stars,	\bigstar
	$\stackrel{\frown}{\leftarrow}$
☆ Spreading light	\bigstar
☆ I (I I I C	\bigstar
$\stackrel{\frown}{\star}$ both near and far.	☆
L hope to be	☆
× ·	\bigstar
hoving and true	$\stackrel{\frown}{\leftarrow}$
☆	\bigstar
☆ And shine my light	☆
☆	\bigstar
☆ on Earth, like you!	☆
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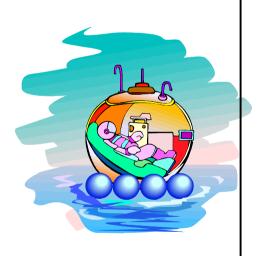
Zak's Imaginary Adventures in Space

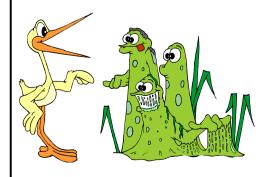
by Maggie Manvell



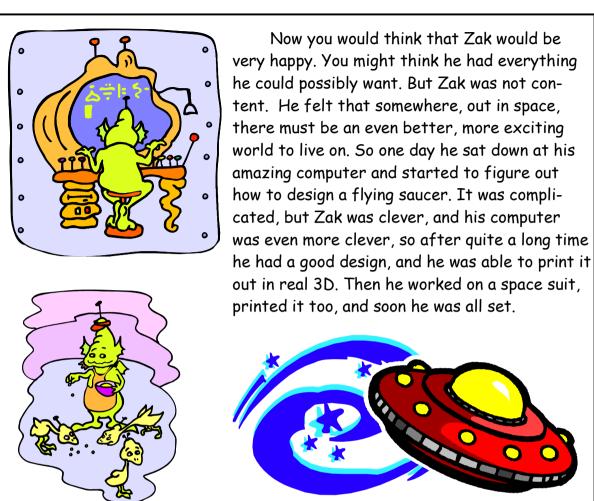
Zak lived on a world far, far away from here, where everything was very different. For one thing, all the people were green. They had big ears, and some had little wings, so they were able to walk very fast by flying a little bit in between each step. They had lots of strange and complicated machines. Zak had a special computer that could do all sorts of amazing things. He could play computer games that no-one here has ever thought of, where things from the games jumped out of the screen and ran about in his bedroom. He could draw amazing 3D images and even print out real 3D things on his printer.

When he went to school Zak had his own little car. Well, you could call it a car, but it wasn't quite like the cars we have here; Zak's car was round, and had lots of wheels so that it could drive over almost any kind of bumpy ground, and it could even go over water, because the wheels kept it afloat. Little tubes stuck out of the top to make sure Zak could get air even if the water was very deep and his car sank. It meant he didn't need a road. He could just trundle over craters, up mountains and through rivers. He could go anywhere!





But the most amazing thing about Zak's world was the animals, because they could talk! They didn't just use animalspeak either, like 'Moo' or 'Wuff wuff'. They talked about really sensible, interesting things. So he learned a lot from talking to them.

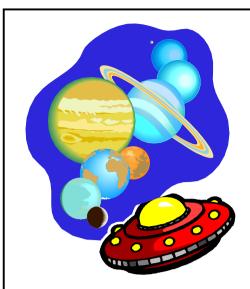


He put on his new suit, climbed into the flying saucer, and away he zoomed, faster and faster, past planets, stars and galaxies, at top speed, headed for his first planet. He managed to make a good landing, and climbed out, very excited, to see what interesting things he would find. First he met with some little animals, which looked quite like some of the ones back home, and, to make friends, he gave them some crumbs from his space dinner. They told him all about their planet. But it was quite disappointing, because there were no people, only little animals like themselves. And they hadn't even invented computers yet. 'Oh dear,' thought Zak, 'I don't think I'd find this

world very interesting!' So he climbed back into his flying saucer and set off again.

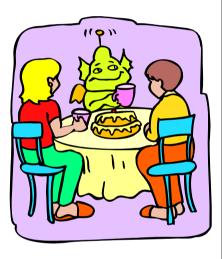
On his next planet he met a very strangelooking beast. It had horns and made strange hooting noises. But it couldn't talk! 'Oh dear,' thought Zak, 'I wouldn't like a world where animals can't talk.' Disappointed, he flew away again.





Eventually, after hours and hours of flying, Zak arrived in a completely new solar system. He chose a very promising-looking blue world, and carefully avoiding the water, he landed. Well, this seemed a pleasant, beautiful world, with trees and flowers, and some very kind and friendly children, who even asked him home to tea. Zak thought this seemed a lovely place to be, and he really liked the cake they gave him. He liked it so much he had three big pieces, and a big cup of a hot drink that they called tea.

The children asked Zak where he was going, and he explained he was looking for a place so exciting that it would make him really happy. 'But what would make you happy?' the children asked. Zak thought. 'I don't know,' he said, 'because I haven't found it yet.' So the children told him all about their planet, and Zak thought it sounded lovely with all its different kinds of fish and birds and flowers and people. There were thousands of different animals too, but he was disappointed none of them could speak.

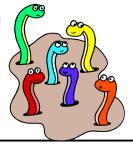




'Oh dear!' said Zak, 'I think I'll try again.' He thanked the children for the delicious cake, and they gave him a big piece to take away in his flying saucer. Soon he was on his search again.

Zak's next world was just a big black place, and seemed to have nothing in it—just the stars shining down from above. 'Oh no,' thought Zak, 'not here!'

Then he visited a world where the only life form seemed to be worms —all different colours—but not what he was looking for.



'This is very disappointing, 'thought Zak. I'll just have one more try.' And he set off once more to a colourful planet with lots of moons and rings.

On one of the moons there was nothing but desert. On another everything was sea. A third moon was so cold that Zak shivered and shivered, even inside his space suit.



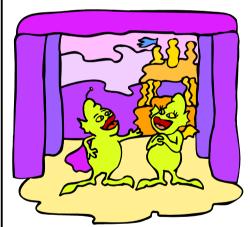
By now he was getting very tired of travelling. 'I think I'll just go home,' he thought.

Away he zoomed, faster and faster, past planets, stars and galaxies, until he came to the familiar world where he had been born.

As soon as he landed, his favourite pet, Ziggy, came to speak to him and showed him her pet butterfly. Zak was so happy to see her again and that the animals on his world could talk. He realised he'd really missed her.

When he arrived at his house his Mum was in the doorway to greet him with a great big hug, and wanting to hear all about his adventures.





'Well', said Zak to his Mum, when he'd finished telling her all about his travels, 'I went looking for somewhere to make me more happy, and while I would like to go on holiday to that beautiful planet where the kind children lived, I've discovered that best of all I like being at home. I think I'll just stay here.'

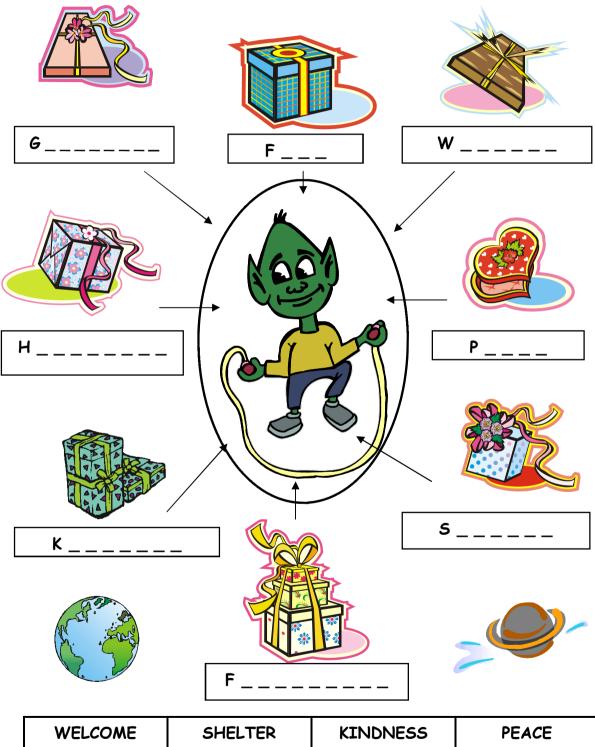
And he curled up in his lovely, comfort-

able bed and had a long restful sleep, dreaming about all the things he'd seen, but very glad to be home again.

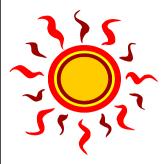


Gifts for an Alien

This little alien has landed on Earth. Can you work out what gifts he's being given?



WELCOME	SHELTER	KINDNESS	PEACE
FRIENDSHIP	HAPPINESS	FOOD	GREETINGS



THE SOLAR SYSTEM

The Sun is our nearest star. It gives us heat and light and helps things grow. Millions of miles away in space, there are other suns (also called stars) and we can see them twinkling in the sky at night.

The Sun and its planets and moons and meteorites make up our Solar System. (Solar means relating to the Sun.)

Our planet, Earth, whizzes around the Sun together with other planets in our Solar System. The largest is Jupiter and the smallest is Pluto. Many scientists now say Pluto is not big enough to be called a proper planet, but it has been included here in case they change their minds again!

Beyond our Solar System, in far-off space, there are other planets but we don't know much about them yet.

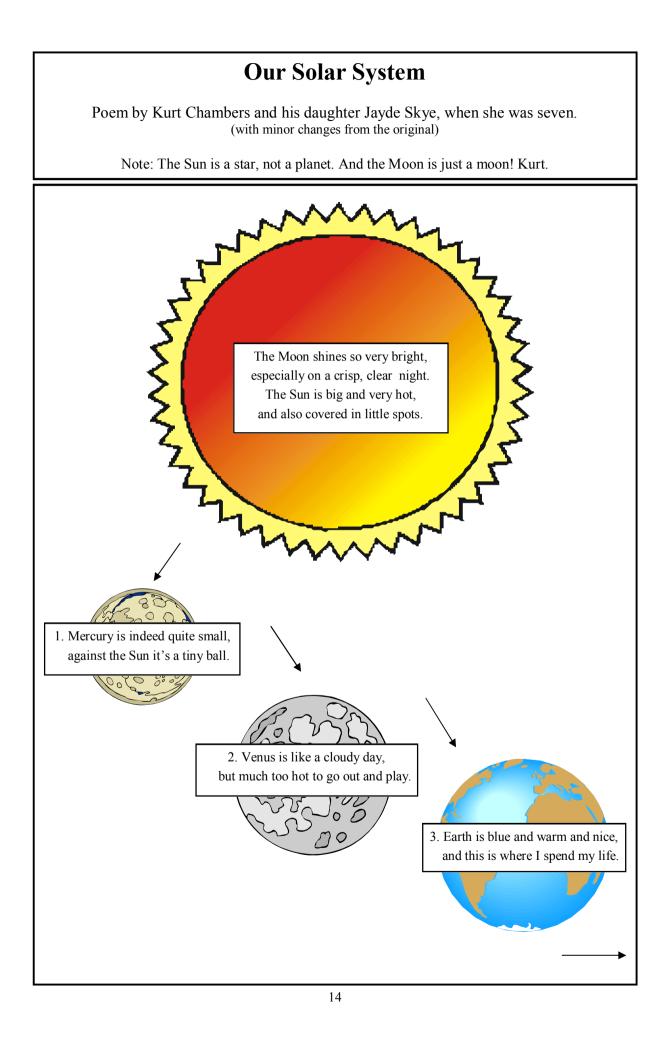
All these amazing worlds were created by God.

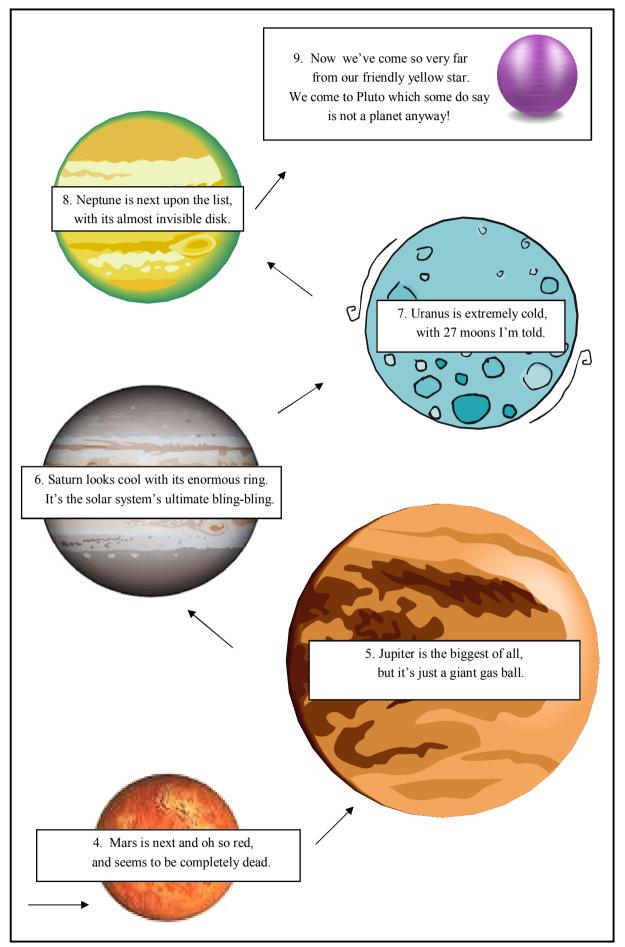
PLANET WORD SEARCH

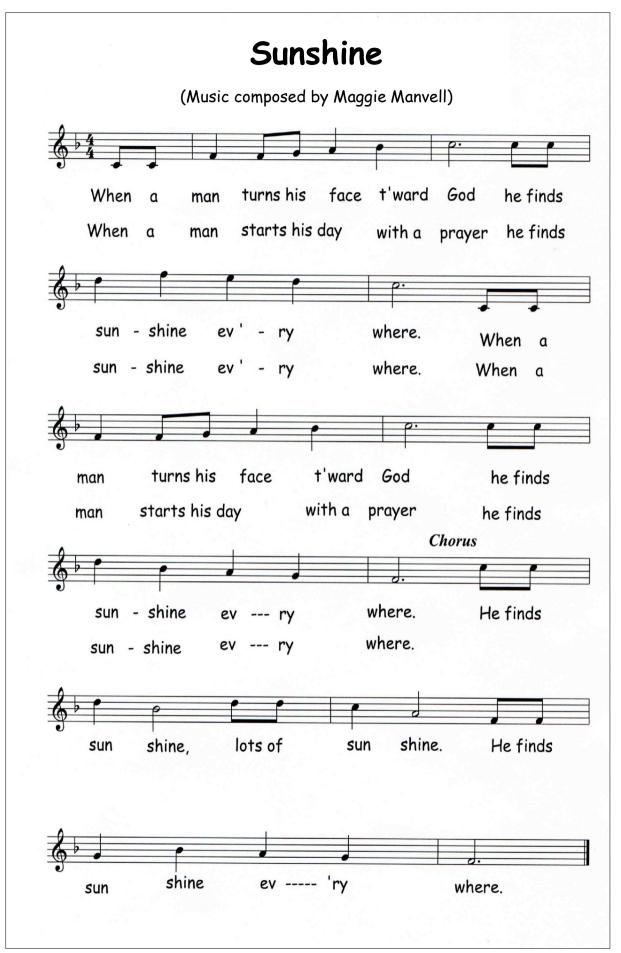
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Α	Α	E	Р	L	Z	В	K	Μ	С	Р
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U	S	U	М	Е	R	С	U	R	Y	U
R	Y	S	Q	Е	A	R	Т	Н	V	Т
N	D	U	R	A	N	U	S	F	G	0

(words go across and down)

MERCURY VENUS EARTH MARS JUPITER SATURN URANUS NEPTUNE PLUTO







The Sunshine Song



When a man turns his face t'ward God He finds sunshine ev'ry where. When a man turns his face t'ward God He finds sunshine ev'ry where.

He finds sunshine, Lots of sunshine. He finds sunshine ev'ry where.



He finds sunshine ev'ry where!

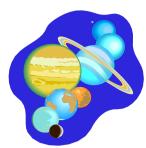
He finds

sunshine.



When a man starts his day with a prayerHe finds sunshine ev'ry where.When a man starts his day with a prayerHe finds sunshine ev'ry where.

The Sun and its Planets



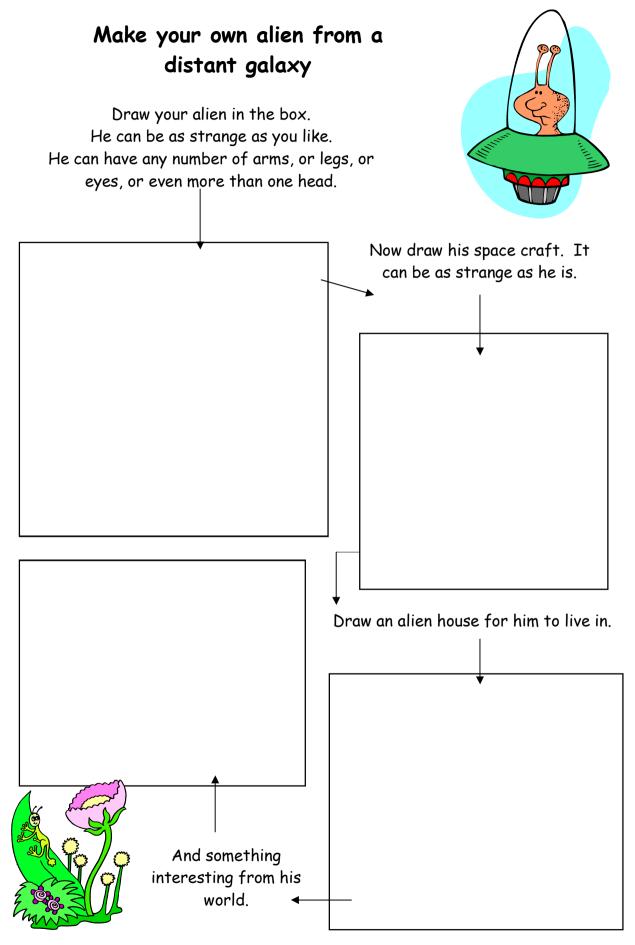
The Sun is a star found at the centre of the Solar System. It is over 300,000 times larger than Earth. The Sun's surface temperature is around 5,500 degrees Celsius. The Sun's core is around 13,600,000 (thirteen million, six hundred thousand!) degrees Celsius!

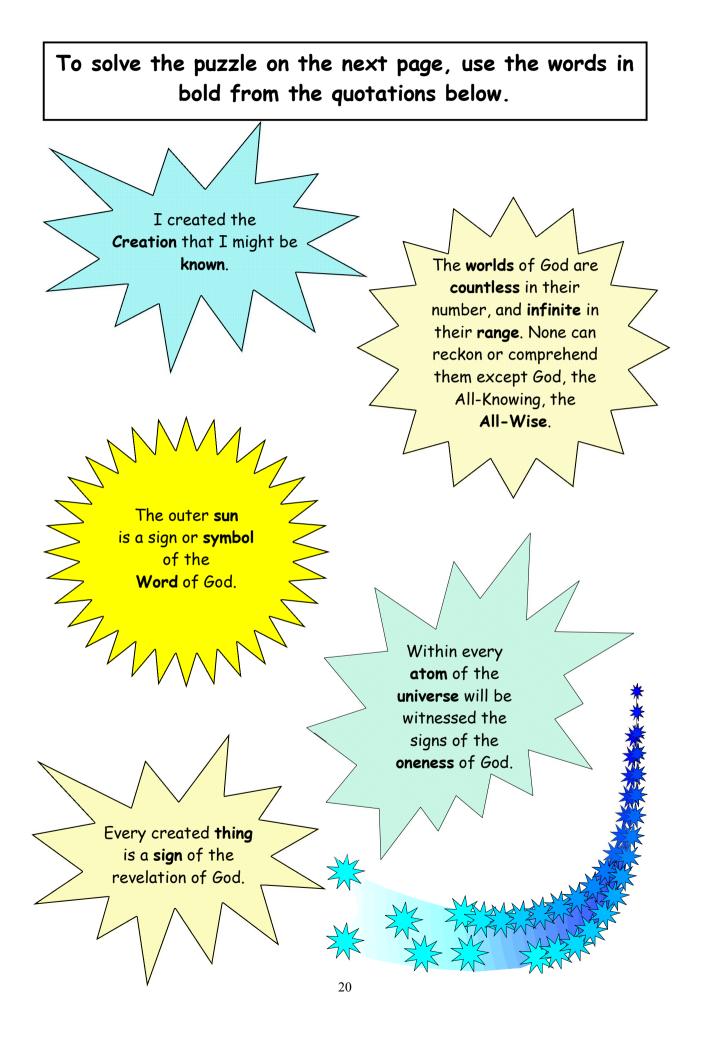
There are eight main planets that orbit the Sun — Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, plus a ninth, if we include little Pluto, which scientists call a dwarf planet. The exciting news is that, after travelling for nearly nine years, a spacecraft will be passing by Pluto in July 2015, hoping to discover more about it. There is an easy way to remember the names of these planets. It is called a 'mnemonic' — the capital letters of the sentence below representing the first letter of each one:

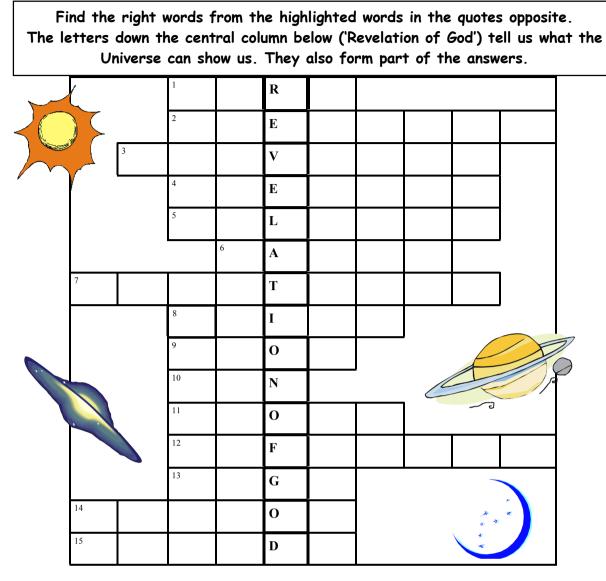
"My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas"

(e.g., M stands for Mars, V for Venus, E for Earth, etc.) Make up your own mnemonic below.

Write the names of the planets on the LEFT side. Write your own mnemonic (see the example above) on the RIGHT side. Μ Μ____ V V Е E Μ Μ J S S U U Ν Ν Ρ..... Ρ







- 1. The outer sun is a sign or symbol of the W___ of God.
- 2. God created the c____ that He might be known.
- 3. Within every atom of the u____ will be witnessed signs of God.
- Within every atom will be witnessed the signs of the o _____ of God.
- 5. None can reckon the worlds of God except God, the A _ _ W _ _ _.
- 6. The worlds of God are infinite in their r _ _ _ _.
- 7. They are c_____ in their number.
- 8. Every created t _ _ _ is a sign of the revelation of God.
- 9. The signs of the oneness of God will be witnessed within every a _ _ _.
- 10. The outer s _ _ is a sign of the Word of God.
- 11. God created the creation that He might be k _ _ _ _ .
- 12. The worlds of God are i _____ in their range.
- 13. Every created thing is a s _ _ _ of the revelation of God.
- 14. The outer sun is a sign or s _ _ _ _ of the Word of God.
- 15. The w _____ of God are countless in their number.

(This story is adapted from the book *Meri and Mervin and the Sea of the Covenant* by J.M., published by the Bahá'í Publishing Trust of India. Meri and Mervin are 12-year-old twins who are taking turns to write about their lives, and this one is being told in the voice of Meri.)

'Love is Heaven's kindly light'



I was lying on the grass in the garden and thinking about our lives and how everything works the planets, suns, moons, people — and marvelling at how



everything holds together. I was about eleven at the time. Mervin was reading a book and our mother was watering the garden.

I knew about theories in science of how our planet Earth came into being and about the law of gravity, but it still seemed like a miracle.

'It's the power of attraction that holds things together,' our science teacher at school had explained when I asked her. 'For example, atoms. If the power of attraction weakens between atoms, they separate and fall apart. They can't hold together anymore.'

I thought of petals falling from flowers. Leaves falling from trees. Stars falling from the sky. All because the power of attraction wasn't there anymore. And I wondered, if the earth stopped moving around the sun and there was nothing to hold things together, if I



would fall off too.

'The earth will continue to circle around the sun for millions of years,' our mother said with a smile when I asked her.

She put the watering can down and asked Mervin and me if we could think of another word that meant the same as attraction.

'A word that binds things together,' she said.

'A magnet?' asked Mervin, looking up from his book. He had a set of strong magnets we often played with and nothing could stop them being attracted to each other. Even when we put them in opposite directions, they still spun round to stick to one another, and it was quite hard to pull them apart.

'Abdu'l-Bahá says there is a magnetic force directing the movements of the planets and stars in the sky,' he added. 'I was reading about it the other day.'

Our mother nodded.

'And another word for a magnetic force?' she asked. 'Something that comes from God and is in everything and brings us together too?'



There was a silence as we tried to think what it could be.

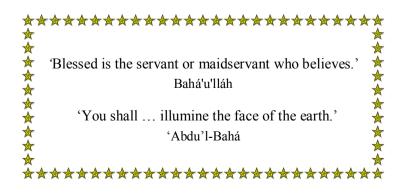
'Love,' she said.

I picked up a stone and held it in the palm of my hand. It was warm from the rays of the sun and it was a wonderful thing to know its atoms were held together by love.



'The Covenant of God is also about love,' said our father, coming into the garden with orange juice for everyone. 'Because God loves us, He sends His Manifestations to tell us how to live good and happy lives and to love one another.'

And I understood that just as the law of love is like a magnet that attracts the planets to circle around the sun, so the warmth of God's love attracts us to turn to Him and keeps us all united.



The Wonder of the Universe!

What Scientists & Others Say

'The most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being.'

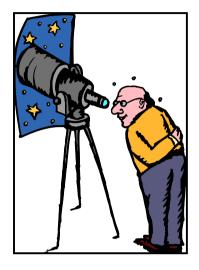
Isaac Newton (d. 1727), who developed calculus and described it in Principia Mathematica, from which the above quote is taken.

'The spiral in a snail's shell is the same mathematically as the spiral in the Milky Way galaxy, and it's also the same mathematically as the spirals in our DNA. It's the same ratio that you'll find in very basic music that transcends cultures all over the world.'

Joseph Gordon-Levitt, actor.

'I'm going to dance in all the galaxies.'

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, psychiatrist.



'The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.'

Psalm 19:1

'... in the galaxy, half a billion stars have Earth-like planets going around them - that's huge, half a billion. So when we look at the night sky, it makes sense that someone is looking back at us.'

Michio Kaku, theoretical physicist.

'I believe in God because I can feel God's presence in my life, because I can see the evidence of God's goodness in the world, because I believe in Love and because I believe that God is Love.'

William D. Phillips, a Nobel Laureate in physics.



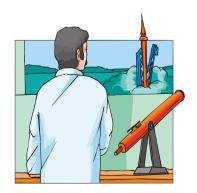


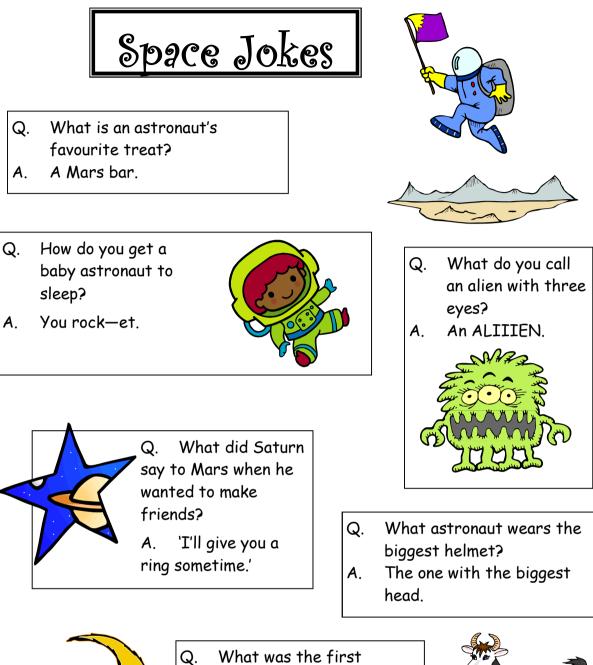
'If I were Francis of Assisi I would say:
'O Galaxies of the immense heavens, give praise to my Lord, for He is omnipotent and good.
O atoms, O protons, O electrons, O bird-songs,
O blowing of the leaves and of the air, in the hands of man as a prayer, sing out the hymn which returns to God!'

Enrico Medi, chair of geophysics, University of Palermo.

'My relationship with God is very personal. I think you can be on first name terms with Him, you know, and tell Him what your troubles are, and ask for help. I do it all the time and it works for me.'

Wernher von Braun, NASA engineer and scientist, designer of the Saturn Rocket which propelled the Apollo Spacecraft to the moon.







- Q. What was the first animal in space?
- A. The cow that jumped over the moon.



- Q. How many balls of string would it take to reach the moon.?
- A. Just one. A very large one!
- Q.
 - Q. How do astronauts add more protein to their diet?
 A. They make it meteor.

Amazing Stories from the Dawn-Breakers

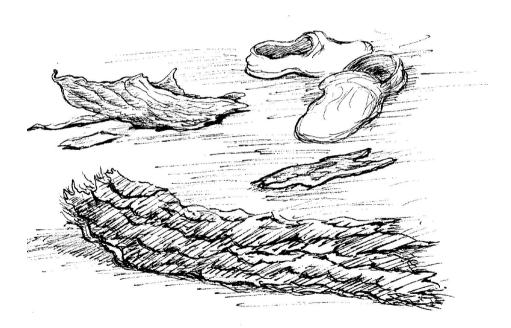
Stories adapted by Jacqueline Mehrabi from **The Dawn-Breakers** and illustrated by Malcolm Lee. (Published by the Bahá'í Publishing Trust of India)

(The story so far: Mullá Husayn, the first person to believe in the Báb, is shot by soldiers who do not want to listen to the new message from God brought by the Báb. He is badly injured and the friends carry him back to the fort and into the presence of Quddús. Quddús tells Mullá Husayn how wonderful the next world is and that he would soon join him there. As Mullá Husayn dies he has a peaceful smile on his face.)

Part 34

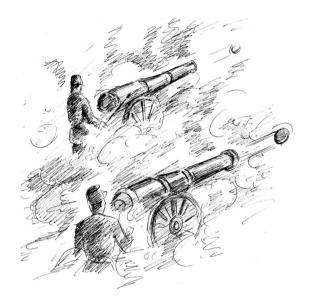
Heroes of Fort Tabarsí (2)

The army continued to attack the fort, even shooting cannon balls at it. But still Quddús and his companions did not give in. Then the army officers stopped bread being delivered hoping that if the believers were hungry they would have to surrender. But the friends ate bark from the trees and boiled bits of leather from their shoes to make a stew instead.



The soldiers became desperate. They shot at anyone who left the fort to go to the well to collect water. Some of the friends began to worry, because it is impossible to live without water, but Quddús prayed and said it would rain that night and snow the following day. It happened exactly as he said, and for a while there was plenty of water for everyone.

The more the bullets rained down on the fort, the louder the believers sang and chanted prayers. The soldiers did not know what to do with them. It was then that the prince, who was the leader of the army, told a lie. He promised that if the believers came out of the fort and gave themselves up, no one would harm them. And he wrote this promise on a copy of the holy Qur'án and sent it to Quddús.



Quddús reverently kissed the Qur'án. He knew the prince would not keep his promise, but because it had been written on a holy book, he agreed to leave the fort.

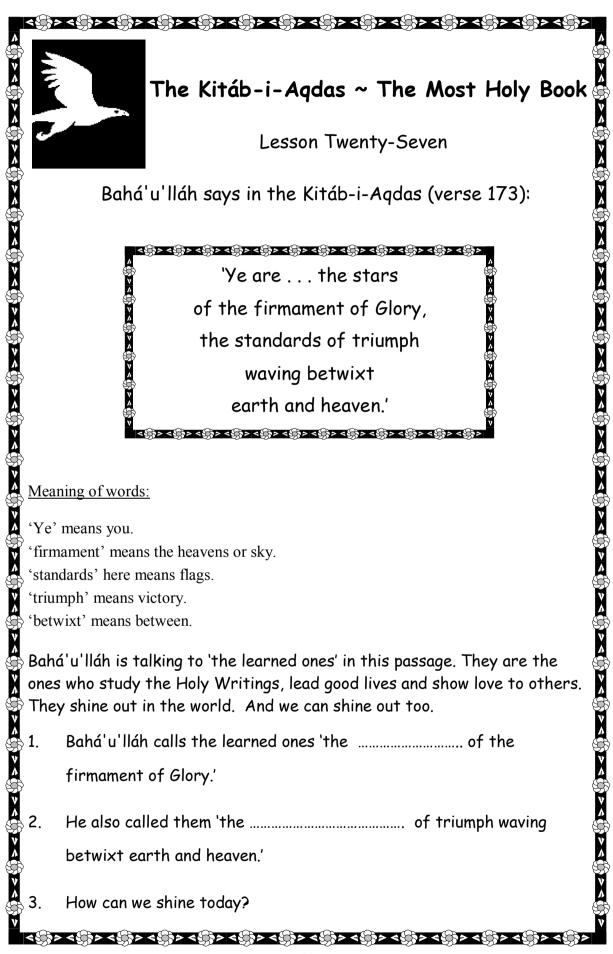
As the Bábís came out, some were captured and sold as slaves. A few escaped. Others were killed. Quddús was arrested and taken by the prince to the house of the head religious leader in the nearby town of Bárfurúsh.

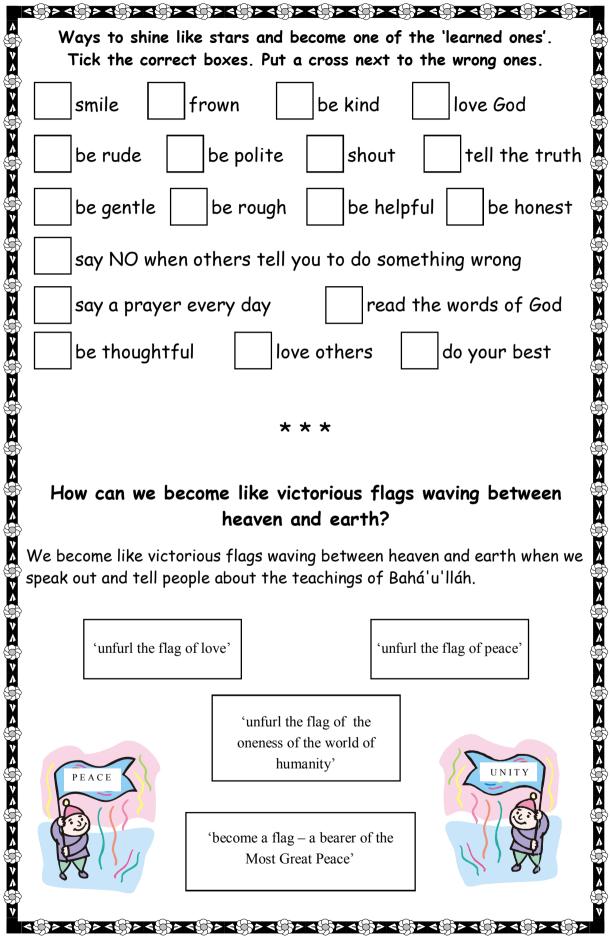
'You are free to do what you like with him,' said the prince, as he handed over Quddús. Then, feeling ashamed of himself because he knew what he was doing was wrong, the prince hurriedly left.

Quddús was loaded with chains and led, barefoot, through the streets of the town. People threw rubbish at him and spat as he passed by.

'Forgive, O my God, the sins of this people,' whispered Quddús. 'Show them, O God, the way of Truth.'

(To be continued...)





Stories of Early Believers

Mullá Bahrám — The Seller of Beetroot

(Based on an account in The Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh, Vol. 2, by AdibTaherzadeh)

It was over a hundred years ago, and a wonderful Baha'i teacher called Hájí Muhammad-Táhir was travelling from town to town in Persia telling people about Bahá'u'lláh. One day, when he was staying in a friend's house in Yazd, his friend told him about a Zoroastrian youth called Bahrám who regularly came to the door selling beetroot and was interested in hearing about the Faith.

'He is a very nice young man,' he said. 'If it meets with your approval, I will bring him in to talk with you next time he calls.'

Muhammad-Táhir looked forward to meeting the young man. You had to be brave at that time to become a Bahá'í because if the governor of the town found out you could be put in prison. In fact, Muhammad-Táhir was hiding in his friend's house because he was being chased by enemies from a village nearby. Some people did not want to listen to anything new, even if it was true.

When next Bahrám came to the house to sell beetroots, he met Muhammad-Táhir, who told him that Bahá'u'lláh was the Great One the Prophet Zoroaster and other Manifestations of God had promised would come to bring peace to the world. Bahrám listened in great excitement and knew in his heart that the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh was true, and he became the first Zoroastrian in Yazd to become a Bahá'í.

'He attained such a state of joy and eagerness that it is difficult to describe,' said Muhammad-Táhir. 'He became restless, and every time he visited us he showed much tenderness and often wept aloud.'

Bahrám told other Zoroastrians in Yazd about the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh and soon a great many joined the Faith.

Because of Bahrám's pure heart, 'Abdu'l-Bahá gave him the title *Akhtar-i-Khávarí*, which means:

'Star of the East'



