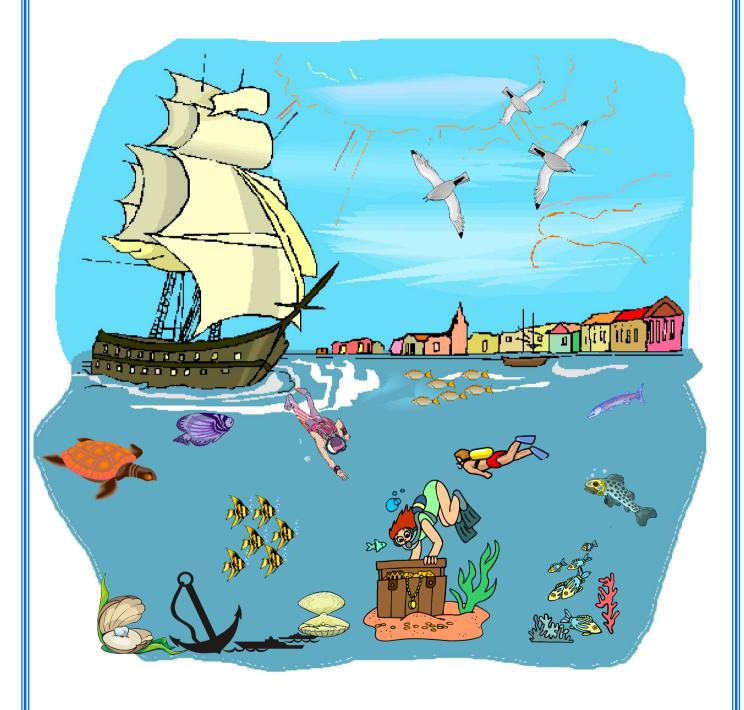
OAYSPRING



A Bahá'í Magazine for Children

Issue 99

Dayspring

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

Dayspring is produced three times a year on an educational non-profit basis and seeks to nurture a love for God and mankind in the hearts of children. Material by children and adults of stories, plays, poems, artwork and news is warmly welcomed. Please note that under the terms of the Child Protection Act regarding publishing images of children, permission to do so is required from a parent or guardian.

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"MAKE MY LOVE THY TREASURE"

Hidden Treasure

(From Stories for Children)





It was raining and the children were gazing out of the window wondering what to do.

"Why don't you look for hidden treasure?" asked Mummy.

"Where?" asked Jane.

"Everywhere," said Mummy. "The world is full of treasure if you look hard enough."

Jane, John, Mark and Mary looked at each other thoughtfully.

"The raindrops on the window, shiny-smooth and pale like pearls?" asked John.

"The moonlight sparkling like silver on the sea at night?" asked Jane, shutting her eyes to think better.

"The morning sunlight spun with gold, and in the evening red and glowing like a ruby?" asked Mark.

"And flowers in the garden like red and blue and yellow beads to make a pretty necklace just for me," added little Mary.

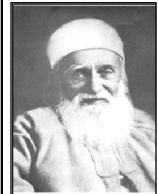
"The world is really full of hidden treasure," said John in wonderment.

"And the best of all," said Mummy with a smile, "is that God made all the treasure. It doesn't matter if you are rich or poor because everyone can

enjoy the beautiful things God made."

"Look!" shouted Jane suddenly.
"Look out of the window. The sun is shining through the rain to make a rainbow full of all the colours of the treasures of the world."





Meeting 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Silver Sixpences

A crowd was gathered around 'Abdu'l-Bahá. It was about the year 1911, over a hundred years ago, and He was staying in a village outside London. The village children had never seen anyone who looked like 'Abdu'l-

Bahá before. At that time, men in the West usually wore caps or top hats and suits. But 'Abdu'l-Bahá was wearing a white turban and a light brown cloak that reached down to the ground. He had a snow-white beard and His blue eyes twinkled.

The younger children gently pulled at 'Abdu'l-Bahá's cloak or held His hands. One by one He lifted them up and gave them a hug. When He put them down again, they found that He had put a little silver sixpence in their hands.

News soon spread about the kind "Holy Man", which is what the people in the village called 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Soon many other people began to arrive from the surrounding villages — mothers and fathers, boys and girls, old and young, all wanting to meet Him. Many of them were poor and cold and hungry and, in those days, sixpence was enough to buy food to feed their families for several days.

'Abdu'l-Bahá welcomed everyone, and gave each one a silver sixpence.

* * *

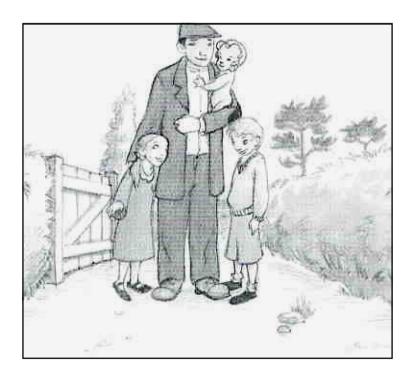
At nine o'clock that evening, a poor man came up the garden path to the house where 'Abdu'l-Bahá was staying. The man was carrying a baby in his arms and his other children were shyly holding onto him.

The lady who owned the house knew 'Abdu'l-Bahá had been busy from early morning seeing people, and she wanted to protect Him from seeing any

more that day. So she told the man that 'Abdu'l-Bahá was too tired to see anyone else. The man was very disappointed as he and his little children had walked for three hours to see Him.

The lady meant well, but 'Abdu'l-Bahá did not want to be protected from seeing people! He knew what sad and difficult lives these poor people had. He loved them and wanted to help them.

The man and his children were just about to walk away when 'Abdu'l-Bahá suddenly appeared round the corner of the house! He lovingly welcomed them and gave them all a hug.



When the family had rested, they left to go back home, feeling very happy.

Their hearts and hands were full of treasure — their hearts with the love of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and their hands full of silver sixpences!



The Shepherdess's Crown

(from Stories for Children)



A little shepherdess was caring for the sheep on the hill. Her dress was thin and her feet were bare.

Sometimes she wished that she was rich with a silken dress and silver shoes and a palace to live in and lots of toys. Until, one day, her grandfather told her:

"Some little girls are real princesses with golden crowns and a hundred servants. But everyone can wear a crown which is much, much better than a princess's crown. It is made of good things like being kind and being wise and telling the truth and

loving others. Like seeing the sheep are warm in winter and have enough grass and are well looked after. Every good thing that you do is like a beautiful jewel to put in your crown."

The little shepherdess sat on the hill and looked at the wispy white clouds and the high-flying birds and the sun shining gold in the sky. And nobody saw that her dress was thin and her feet were bare, for on her head there shone a crown of light and love and truth and happiness.

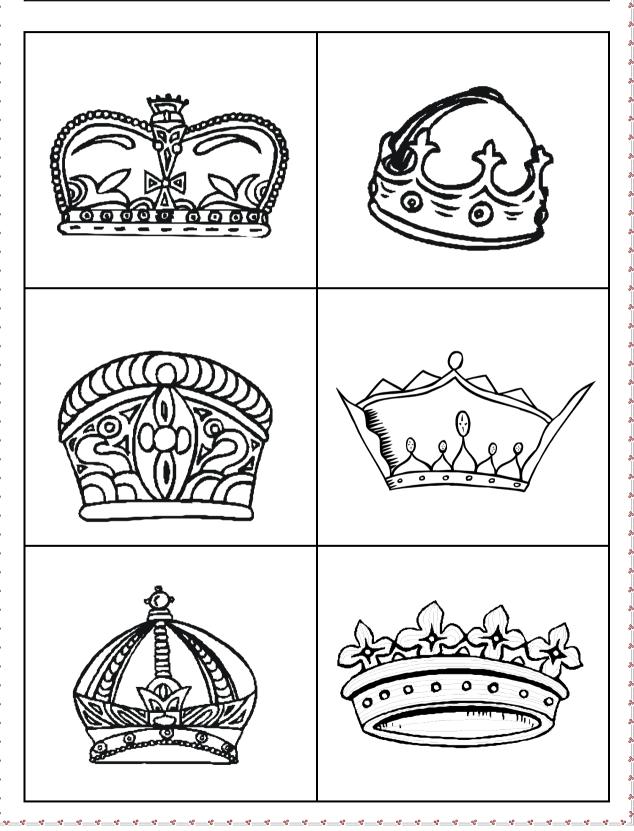
"Say: O God, my God! Attire mine head with the crown of justice, and my temple with the ornament of equity.

Thou, verily art the Possessor of all gifts and bounties."

Bahá'u'lláh

Decorate these crowns with jewels and colours.

But remember that the crown of the little shepherdess,
made beautiful with kindness and love, was even more lovely.



Ios the Shepherd Boy

You may know these three stories already, but good stories can be told again and again and we never get tired of hearing them.

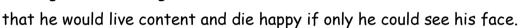
Do you think that the love Ios felt for his King describes the love we should have for God?

~ 1 ~

Ios was a shepherd boy who looked after his flocks of sheep in the valleys and

on the sloping hills of Persia. He was poor and simple and knew no other kind of life except caring for his sheep.

But he had one love and one great longing — to see the face of his King. He had never seen the King but had heard wonderful tales of his greatness and goodness, and he felt

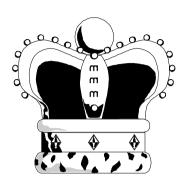


One day Ios heard that the King would pass on the highroad not far from his fields. With a heart full of love he left everything and waited by the road. At



last the royal procession appeared, with musicians on horseback, soldiers, and buglers glittering and gorgeous in the sunshine.

Ios's eyes gazed past all this to the King, who was slowly approaching behind. With flushed face and throbbing heart Ios watched for the face he had waited and longed to see for all of his life. When the procession in front suddenly stopped, the King asked what had happened. He was told that a poor shepherd boy stood in the way and begged to see him.



The King commanded that the boy be brought, and Ios, trembling with joy, came to the side of the carriage and gazed long and steadfastly on the face he adored.

The King, amazed at this loving look, said, "Who are you?" "Ios, the shepherd boy, my

King," he replied.

"What do you want from me?" said the King.

"Oh my King," he said. "All my life I have longed for you.

The utmost desire of my heart has been to see your face.

Now I am happy and content. I can return to my humble life forever blessed since I have seen you."

The King was greatly touched, and looking long and earnestly at the boy, he continued on his way.

But he kept thinking about Ios — such love he had never known. All those who surrounded him only wanted gifts and money from him, but here was somebody who asked for nothing and was content with just looking at his face.

The King longed to see Ios again and sent for the shepherd boy and had him brought to the palace. Ios came with eager joy and came into the presence of the King. The King trusted Ios so much he made him the guardian of his treasure.



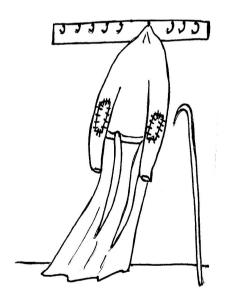


But those who lived in the palace were filled with jealousy and tried to find some fault in Ios so that the King wouldn't like him so much. They watched Ios day and night and soon they found something that made them suspicious. In the silence of the night, when everyone was sleeping, they saw Ios creep out of his room, make his way through the winding passages in the palace, and enter a small room far up under the roof.

"Ah," they said. "He is robbing the treasury and storing away the treasure in a secret place!"

They ran to tell the King the news, and the next night he watched with them and saw Ios steal away to his secret hiding place. The King followed, threw open the door and entered the room.

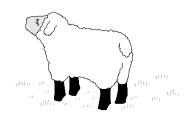
It was bare and empty, but on the wall hung the shepherd's coat Ios had worn before he came to live in the palace, and the shepherd's crook which he had used when he was looking after his sheep.



"What is the meaning of this, Ios?" exclaimed the King. "Why do you silently creep to this room in the middle of the night and make me suspicious when I thought I could trust you?"

"Oh my King," replied Ios, "when first I saw you I was a poor ignorant shepherd boy, but through your generosity I now have a high and important station. But I don't want to become proud and forget where I came from. I want always to be humble and grateful to

you. So each night I come here to remind myself of how poor I once was, and that all the riches I now have are because of you and your bounty, generosity and favour."



One day while the King was riding with his courtiers and favourites he opened a wallet in his saddle and threw handfuls of precious jewels in the road. His friends stopped, dismounted and gathered the gifts scattered by his loving hand. Ios alone remained at his side with his eyes fastened on the beloved face, never glancing away.

Then the courtiers murmured among themselves, saying, "See Ios. He despises the gifts of the King and will not bother to get them."



The King looked at Ios and smiled. "What is the matter, Ios, do you dislike my gifts?"

"I have never wanted anything from you except to see your face," said Ios.
"This will always be enough for me."

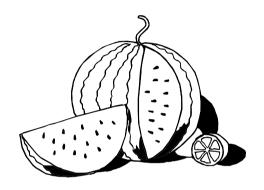
~ 3 ~

In Persia they have a great variety of delicious melons and it is the custom in the season when they grow to hold feasts and serve this plentiful fruit to the guests. When the season came and the melons were ripe, the King held a feast and invited many people. Ios wasn't there as he was working, but the guests noticed that one melon was left uncut on the table. They began to murmur among themselves, saying, "You see that melon? No doubt it is very sweet and delicious and the King is keeping it for his favourite, Ios."

Soon, the King sent for Ios. He cut a piece of the melon and said to him, "You, too, must take part in the feast. I have kept this melon for you."

Ios ate the piece of melon. Then the King took a slice for himself. But when the King tasted it, he exclaimed, "This melon is bitter! How can you eat it, Ios?"

The boy replied, "All my life I have received sweet things from your hand. Now, if you give me something bitter, is it right to refuse it? Something that is bitter tastes sweet to me when it is given by the hands of my King."



Things to think about in the stories of Ios 1. What was the only thing Ios wanted? Why? 2. How did Ios stay humble and not become proud when he lived in the palace surrounded with rich things? 3. Why did Ios not mind eating the bitter melon? What do you think the bitter melon may represent in our lives? If you are not sure, ask an adult what they think it means.

The answers to this crossword can be found in the stories about Ios

	1 B		2 P					
³ K								
			⁴ J	5 E	6 L			
								⁷ P
							⁸ J	
9 T								
						•		
	¹⁰ B		¹¹ S					
12 C				-	-			
			¹³ M					

Across clues:

- 2 The country where Ios lived.
- 3 Ios longed to see the K _ _ _.
- 4 Others in the palace were J _ _ _ of Ios.
- 9 The king trusted Ios so much he put him in charge of the T_____.
- 11 Ios had been a simple S_{---} .
- 12 To remember his past Ios looked at his old C_{--} .
 - 13 In the third story what fruit did they eat?



Down clues:

- 1 In the third story the melon Ios ate was B _ _ _ _ .
- 5 In the second story, Ios didn't want treasure because seeing the King was E $_$ $_$ $_$ $_$.
- 6 Ios felt great L _ _ for the King.
- 7 Ios looked at his old coat so he would not become P _ _ _ _ .
- 8 The King threw J_{--} in the road.
- 10 Ios had been a poor shepherd B _ _ .



CORNELIA'S JEWELS

(Adapted from a traditional story)

It was a bright morning in the old city of Rome many hundred years ago. In a vine-covered summer-house in a beautiful garden, two brothers and their sister were standing. They were looking at their mother and her rich friend, who were walking among the flowers and trees.

"Did you ever see so handsome a lady as our mother's friend?" asked the younger boy. "She is like a queen with her dress of silk and belt of pearls, and chains of gold around her neck."

His brother and sister agreed, but said that although their mother was poor, her face was so noble and kind, in their eyes she was also like a queen, and the younger boy nodded.



Soon afterwards their mother came down the path to speak to them. She was simply dressed in a cotton dress. A plain scarf covered her head, and her bracelets were made of copper, not gold. A tender smile lit up her face as she looked into her children's eyes.

"Children," she said, "I have something to tell you."

The boys bowed before her, as Roman lads were
taught to do, and the little girl stood respectfully.

"What is it, Mother?" they asked.

"You are to dine with us today, here in the garden; and then our friend is going to show us a wonderful box of jewels she owns."

The children looked shyly at their mother's friend. Was it possible that she had still other rings besides those on her fingers? Could she have other gems besides those which sparkled in the chains about her neck?



When the meal was over, a servant brought the box from the house. The lady opened it. Ah, how those jewels dazzled the eyes of the wondering children! There were ropes of pearls, white as milk, and smooth as satin; heaps of shining rubies, red as the glowing coals; sapphires as blue as the sky that summer day; and diamonds that flashed and sparkled like the sunlight. The children looked long at the gems.

"Ah!" whispered the youngest, "if our mother could only have such beautiful things!"

At last, the box was closed and carried carefully away.

The lady turned to the children's mother.

"Is it true, Cornelia, that you have no jewels?" she asked . "Is it true, as I have heard it whispered, that you are poor?" $\[\frac{1}{2} \]$

"No, I am not poor," answered Cornelia, and as she spoke she drew her children to her side. "Here are my jewels. They are worth more than all the gems in the world."

The children never forgot their mother's pride and love and care; and later, when the boys had become great men in Rome and their sister had children of her own, they often thought of this scene in the garden.

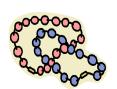






In her eyes
the look of loving,
In her smile
the warmth of caring,
In her hands
the touch of comfort,
In her heart
the gift of sharing.

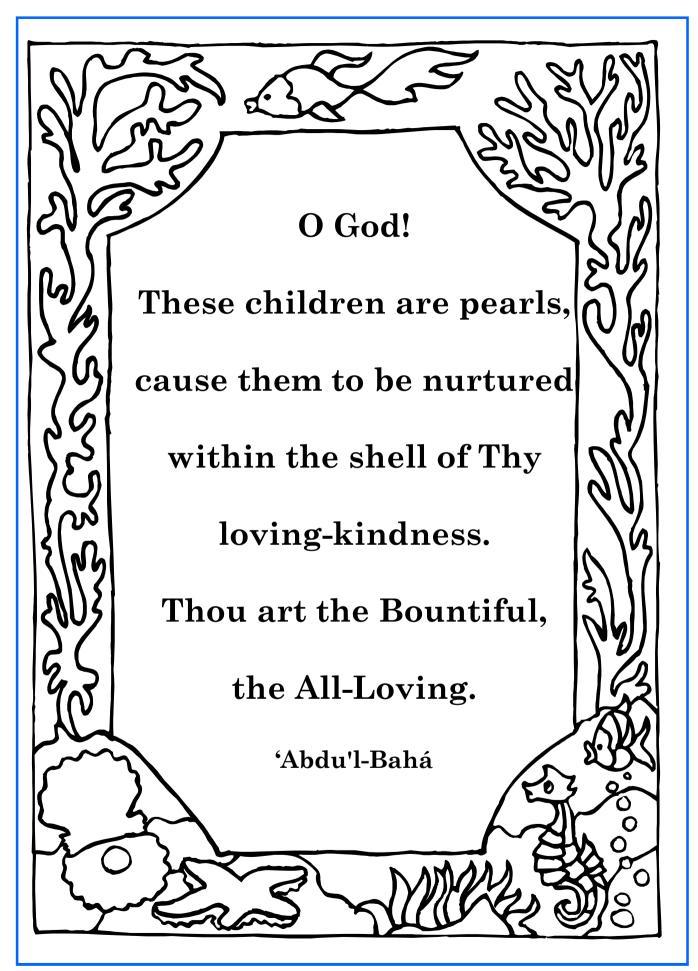
(Author Unknown)











What does it mean?

"These children are pearls"

Pearls are beautiful and precious jewels that grow inside oyster shells.





The oyster shells protect the pearls growing inside them.

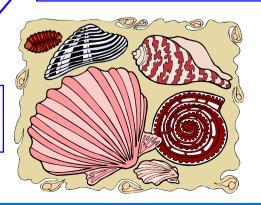
'Abdu'l-Bahá says that children are like beautiful and precious pearls, and they need to be looked after too.

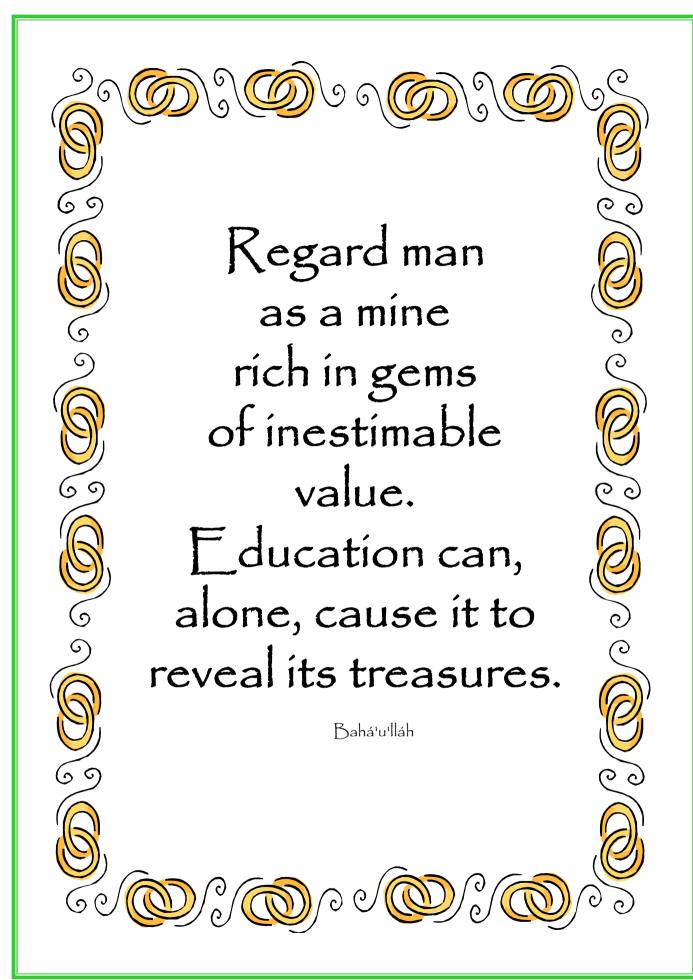
"cause them to be nurtured"



He is asking God to surround children within His loving-kindness, which is like a shell to keep them safe.

To nurture means to look after something with love and care.





God has filled our souls with wonderful qualities like kindness and love.

What does it mean?

"Regard man as a mine rich in gems of inestimable value."



Before people are born, when their souls first begin, God placed very beautiful precious qualities inside them.

They are so beautiful they are like gems, or jewels, and so precious that we do not know their true value.

Like gems in a mine they are hidden and need to be brought to the surface.

"Education can, alone, cause it (the mine inside us) to reveal its treasures."









You cannot see these qualities, but they are there, waiting to be developed. They will grow and develop if we learn the things that God has taught us in His Holy Writings.

Treasure Box

Written by Carolyn Moss-Williams



My heart is like a treasure box
That's fastened up with golden locks.
The Key — I must find a way
To unlock this treasure every day.

What kind of treasure does it hold? Sparkling gems and pearls and gold? Yes! But not the kind you see Upon some fancy jewellery.

Pearls within my box of treasure, More precious than I can measure, Shine with radiance, joy and love, All gifts to me from God above.

These gems sparkle with love divine —
I share these gems, they're not just mine —
If I give gems of love away,
That giving brightens up my day.





Golden deeds are what I treasure, Light my heart with God's good pleasure. This gold shines with God's love you see, Shining, reflected back to me.

If I remember when I pray
To thank this treasure every day,
These gems, these pearls, this shining gold,
Will warm my heart and love unfold.

Which of these might be in your treasure box?

Lightly colour the words in the boxes under each picture.

For 'yes' use green, and for 'no', use red.



Loving thoughts



An old boot



Friendship



Beautiful music



An old fish



Kind deeds



Peaceful actions



Helpful deeds



Enjoyment of nature



An apple core



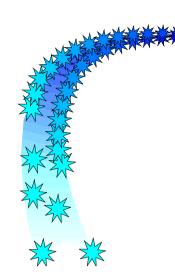
These pirates are looking for money, gold and silver.

But this is not the only kind of treasure. You will find some of God's treasures every time you feel happiness, you do something good, or see something beautiful.

When you feel love for a baby, a kitten, a puppy or any living creature, you are finding treasures that God has given us.

God tells us His treasure is very precious.	
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Write the message here:	
	Bahá'u'lláh



My Treasures

Janet Fleming Rose

If I graze my knee or skin my nose My Mum is there and always shows Her love for me.

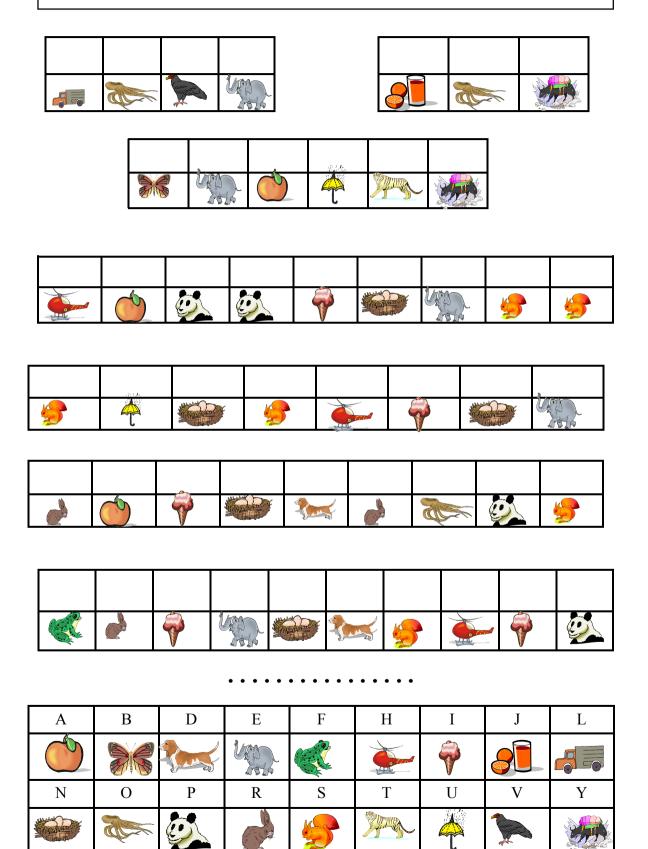
I know how lucky I must be
To have a loving family —
I treasure this.

When I'm alone and feeling sad
I think of all the fun I've had
With my good friends.
And even when we disagree
We soon forgive and you can see —
I treasure them.

Sometimes the sun, sometimes the rain,
The earth grows dry, then blooms again.
God sends us gifts.
His love surrounds us all through life,
In tests, in pleasures, joy and strife —
I treasure it.

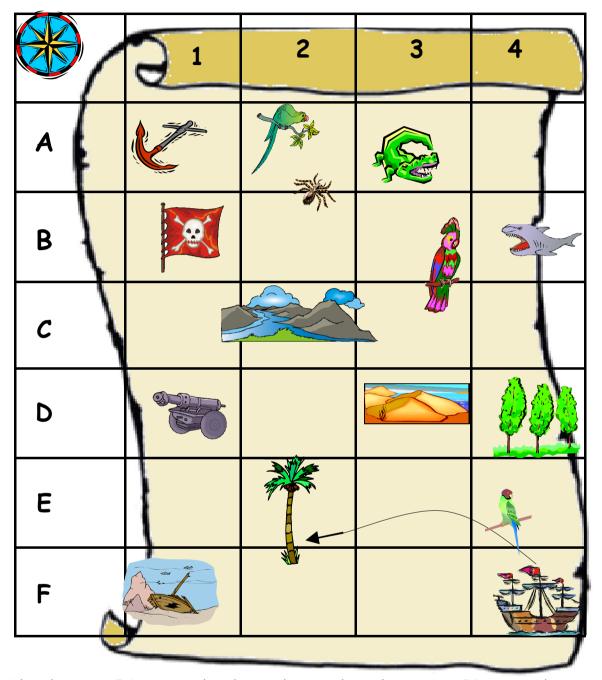
These are some of the treasures God gives us.

Can you work out what they are?



Follow the instructions at the bottom of the map and draw the path to the treasure.

Draw a red cross where the treasure is hidden.



The ship is at **F4**. Leave the ship and go to the palm tree at **E2**. Now draw your path going to the shipwreck at **F1**. Next, cross the mountains at **C2** then find the old cannon at **D1**. Now take your path to the pirate flag at **B1**. Draw your path past the crocodile at **A3**, then to the old anchor at **A1**. From there go to the Bay of Sharks at **B4**. Now draw your path through the grove of trees at **D4**. Now go to the desert at **D3**. Well done! Draw a big red cross under the sand hills, because this is where the treasure is!

Pirate Jokes

Q: Why did Captain Hook cross the road?

A: To reach the second hand shop.





Q: What notes do pirates like to sing?

A: The high 'c's. (seas)

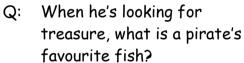
Q: What is the parrot's favourite game?

A: Hide and speak.



Q: What does the sea say when a pirate leaves to go on land?

A: It just waves.



A: A goldfish.



Q: What vegetables are pirates scared of?

A: Leeks!

Q: Where do pirates go to buy cheap ships?

A: To the sails. (sales)



Q: What's orange and sounds like a parrot?

A: A carrot.



Q: Why can't you take a picture of a pirate with a wooden leg?

A: Because a wooden leg can't take pictures.



Quiz

The answers are on the previous pages.

- 1. What should be our treasure? (see p.4)
- 2. What gem do raindrops look like? (p.5)
- 3. What did 'Abdu'l-Bahá give to the children? (p.6)
- 4. When the poor family left 'Abdu'l-Bahá, what were their hearts full of? (p.7)
- 5. What was the shepherdess's crown made of? (p.8)
- 6. What did the King trust Ios to look after? (p.11)
- 7. What did Ios keep in the room to remind him to always remain humble and grateful? (p.12)
- 8. When the King scattered diamonds on the road, why did Ios not want them? (p.13)
- 9. When the King gave Ios a slice of melon to eat, why did Ios not tell him it was bitter? (p.14)
- 10. Although their Mother was poor, why did the children think she was like a queen? (p.16)
- 11. Why did their Mother say she was rich? What did she say her treasures were? (p.17)
- 12. What does 'Abdu'l-Bahá say children are like? (p.18)
- 13. What does "nurture" mean? (p.19)
- 14. How should we "regard" (think about) people? Why do you think education is important? (p.21)
- 15. What special things do you treasure? (Some examples are on pp.24-26.)







Answers to Puzzles

P. 15 Crossword puzzle.

Across: 2. Persia 3. King 4. Jealous 9. Treasure 11. Shepherd

12. Coat 13. Melons

Down: 1. Bitter 5. Enough 6. Love 7. Proud 8. Jewels 10. Boy

P. 25 Picture puzzle: "Make My love thy treasure and cherish it even as thy very sight and life."

P. 27 God's Treasures: love; joy; beauty; happiness; sunshine; raindrops; friendship.

P. 30 Quiz:

1. Our treasure should be the "love of God". 2. Pearls.

3. Silver sixpences.
4. Their hearts were full of the love of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.
5. Her crown was made of light and love and happiness.
6. The King's treasure.
7. His old shepherd's coat.

8. Looking at the King was enough. 9. Even bitterness was sweet to Ios, because it was given by the King. 10. Their mother was noble and kind. 11. Their mother's treasures were her children. 12. Pearls. 13. To nurture is to look after something and protect it. 14. People are like mines full of hidden gems. Education uncovers the gems so they can be seen and used.

15. Some answers might be: happiness, beauty, love, friends, your family, God's love.



