

# DAYS PRING



A Bahá'í Magazine for Children  
Issue 87

## *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 the children. Contributions by children and adults of suitable stories, plays, poems, artwork and news are warmly welcomed. **Note:** Under the terms of the Child Protection Act regarding publishing of images of children, permission must be given from a child's parent or guardian.

**Contact information:** "Dayspring", 95 Georgetown Road, Dumfries, DG1 4DG. Tel. 01387-249264.

**Email:** [dayspring@bahai.org.uk](mailto:dayspring@bahai.org.uk) **Website:** [www.dayspring-magazine.org.uk](http://www.dayspring-magazine.org.uk)

**Editors:** Jackie Mehrabi and Maggie Manvell.

**Website manager:** David Merrick.

**Distributor:** Helena Hastie.

**Printers:** Printsmith, Fort William, Scotland, PH33 6RT.

#### **Free Copies:**

1. Free copies of *Dayspring* are automatically sent to registered Bahá'í children in the UK aged 5-12 inclusive. Please notify the National Spiritual Assembly direct if you wish your child to be registered.
2. Free copies are also sent on request of a Bahá'í parent to unregistered Bahá'í children in the UK and to children of pioneers from the UK. Copies are also sent free to teachers of children's classes on request. For these requests, please contact the editor.

#### **Subscriptions:**

Others can subscribe direct to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom, 27 Rutland Gate, London, SW7 IPD. Tel. 020 7584 2566. Email: [nsa@bahai.org.uk](mailto:nsa@bahai.org.uk). **Note:** Please also notify the editor when you have subscribed and for how long, together with details of the child's name, age, and address.

**UK:** £6 for one year (3 issues) **Overseas:** £12 for one year (3 issues)

**NOTE:** *Dayspring* can be downloaded free from the Dayspring website: [www.dayspring-magazine.org.uk](http://www.dayspring-magazine.org.uk)

#### **Acknowledgements**

- p.5. "The Poor Fisherwoman" is from *Three Gifts of Love* by J.M., published by Brilliant Books and adapted from *The Master of Akka* by H.M. Phelps.
- pp.8-10. "Raindrops" is from "The Happy Raindrops" by Margo Fallis, used with her kind permission, including the illustration of the three raindrops jumping from a cloud.
- p.13. "The Beautiful Day" is from *Stories for Children* by J.M. published by the Bahá'í Publishing Trust of the UK.
- p.15. "How the Fly Saved the River" is adapted from <http://www.angelfire.com/ca/Indian/stories.html>
- p.16. The passage beginning "Be pleasing waters" has been set to music composed by Maggie Manvell.
- pp.24-25. "The Legend of Niagara" is from the *Red Indian Fairy Book* by Frances Jenkins Olcott, published in Boston, New York by Houghton Mifflin Company, 1917.
- p.31. "The Maker of Perfume of Roses" is from *The Love of Bahá'u'lláh* by J.M., published by Oneworld, and is a story adapted from an account in *The Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh*, Vol. 4, ch. 4, by Adib Taherzadeh, published by George Ronald.

**March 2014 — June 2014**

**Issue 87**

The dearest wish of this servant . . . is . . . to see  
all the members of human society gathered with love . . .  
even as individual drops of water collected  
in one mighty sea . . . as pearls of one ocean,  
as leaves of one tree . . .

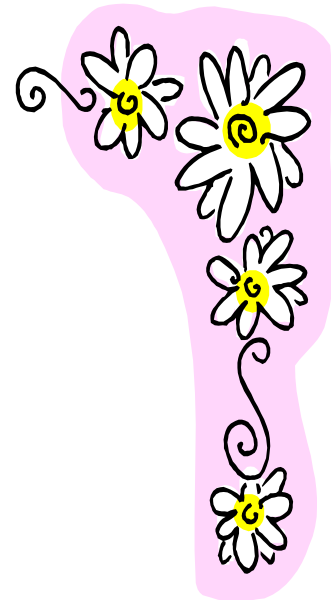
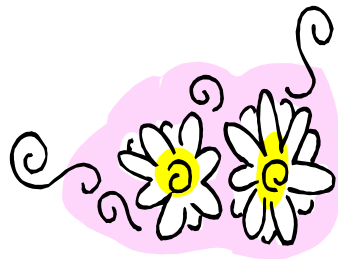
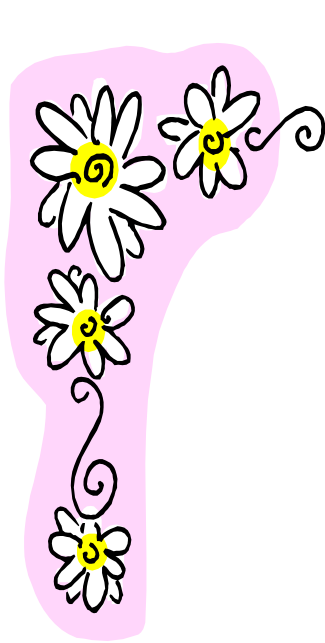
‘Abdu'l-Bahá

*This issue is about Water*

## CONTENTS

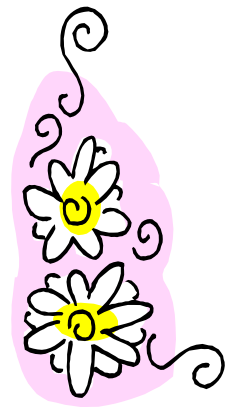
- “Shower upon them all” (quotation) (4)  
Meeting ‘Abdu’l-Bahá (5)  
Little Child Across the Ocean (poem) (6-7)  
Raindrops (story) (8-11)  
Crossword (12)  
The Beautiful Day (story) (13)  
Where Go the Boats? (poem) (14)  
How the Fly Saved the River (story) (15)  
Music (16-17)  
Why is Water Important? (18)  
Water Facts (19)  
“Give us to drink” (quotation) (20)  
Spiritual Water (puzzle) (21)  
Word Search (22)  
Quotes about Water (23)  
The Legend of Niagara (story) (24-25)  
The Dawn-Breakers: “Bahá'u'lláh is Arrested Again” (26-28)  
Kitáb-i-Aqdas (29-31)

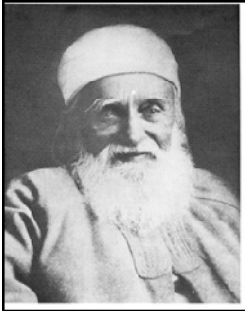




O Lord,  
shower upon  
them all  
the outpourings of  
Thy mercy,  
rain down upon  
them all  
the waters of Thy  
grace.

'Abdu'l-Bahá





## Meeting 'Abdu'l-Bahá

### The Poor Fisherwoman

'Abdu'l-Bahá set off to travel round the bay from Akká to Haifa. He stepped into a horse-drawn carriage, which was the cheapest way to travel but was very uncomfortable and already full of poor people with their bags and belongings.

The driver was surprised when he saw 'Abdu'l-Bahá getting into the crowded carriage, thinking someone so important should be riding in a more comfortable carriage.

"Your Excellency surely wishes a private carriage!" he said.

"No," smiled 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and they set off, the horses pulling the carriage over the sandy beach, which at the time was the only way to travel to Haifa as there was no road. The waves washed over the hooves of the horses as they trotted along the shore. When they arrived in Haifa the driver reined in the horses and everyone got off.

At that moment a poor fisherwoman came up to 'Abdu'l-Bahá. She looked tired and sad and said that she had not been able to catch any fish all day and had no food to take home to her hungry children. 'Abdu'l-Bahá gave her enough money to buy food, then turned to the driver, who had been watching as all this happened.

"You now see the reason why I would not take a private carriage," said 'Abdu'l-Bahá. "Why should I ride in luxury when so many are starving?"



# O Little Child Across the Ocean

*by Sylvia Miley*



O little child across the ocean.

O little child across the sea.

Listen to the call of love,

Strive to make the people free.

Unite the hearts of all the races,

Let justice be the sword of peace.

Learn to understand each other

For only then the wars will cease.

O little child across the ocean.

O little child who wants the same.

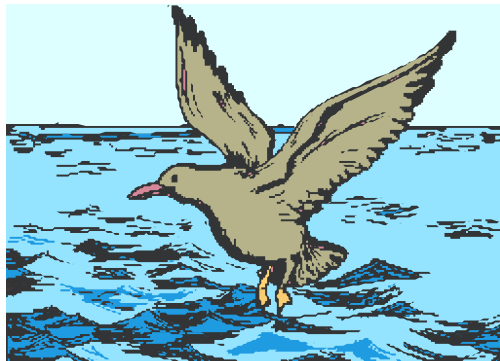
We may never meet each other

But our lives should have one aim:

To care for every fellow being,  
To grow in wisdom, strength and might.  
Then the souls will link together  
Bathed in His eternal light.

O little child across the ocean.  
O little child across the sea.  
I have a special wish for you,  
That you will always try to be

A guiding light to lead the people,  
A voice that speaks what's only true,  
And the love of God for ever brightly  
Shine within the heart of you.



# Raindrops

by Margo Fallis

Way up in the sky, in a big, puffy, white cloud, the raindrops were waiting for a storm to happen, because their favourite thing in the world was to fall from the cloud and land on something with a splat!



One day, the puffy cloud began to get grey and much heavier. The raindrops knew this meant a storm was about to happen. When the lightning began to flash and when the thunder began to boom, all the raindrops got together for a big meeting. In this meeting they planned where each drop of rain was going to land. The biggest raindrop of all was called Randall. He got to choose first.

"I think I will land on that man's nose," Randall said, parting the cloud just a little bit to show everyone. He pointed to a man sitting on a bench in the park. The other raindrops giggled. "Here I go," Randall cried, then away he went, falling from the big grey cloud, through the stormy sky. He landed right in the middle of the man's nose. He broke into pieces and went all over the man's face, into his eyes and onto his lips.



The other raindrops shouted, "YEAH!"

"My turn," called Reese, the next largest raindrop. He had decided to land in a lady's eye and smear her make-up. He jumped down through the small part



in the cloud and landed with a "kerplop" right in her eye. Her make-up ran down her cheek and dropped onto her white blouse, making a mess.

Again, screams of delight echoed throughout the cloud. All the rest of the big raindrops took their turns, landing on dogs, people reading the



newspaper, and shiny cars that were pulling out of car washes.



The smaller raindrops decided they were not big enough to do anything alone, so they divided up into four groups.

The first group chose to rain on an ant's nest. They all held hands and jumped down together. When they hit the nest, the dirt went flying everywhere. The carefully dug tunnels collapsed and the angry ants ran about trying to save their nest.



The next group of raindrops landed on a boy's fluffy candy floss. It dissolved into a sticky mess, leaving the small child crying.

"Let's land on that woman," suggested the leader of the third group. "She just came out of the beauty parlour." The rest of them tee-heed and giggled,

then they all held hands and jumped. Plop! Plop! Plop! They all landed on her nicely combed hair. The curls turned into soggy, limp ropes.



The raindrops all seemed to be enjoying themselves, except the fourth group. They were the smallest of all the raindrops. They didn't like to do all those mean things. One of them, called Rebecca, said to the others,



"Let's have our group do something nice. Look down there for something that wants and needs us to rain on it."

They watched carefully. They saw a boy with an ice cream cone. He didn't need any rain.



A family was in the park having a picnic. They didn't want it to rain.



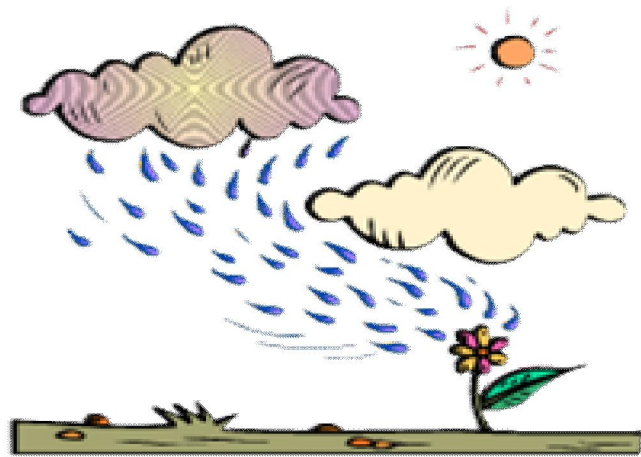
There was also a beautiful wedding taking place and the raindrops knew that they didn't want it to rain and ruin everything.

Rylee, the teeniest raindrop, spotted a little flower. It was a pretty yellow colour but was starting to turn brown around the edges. Its head was drooping. Rylee cried out to the others, "Rebecca, come and look. That little flower needs us."



The rest of them also looked down. "That would be a nice thing to do," Rebecca said, "Let's go!"

The little raindrops jumped and landed softly on the limp yellow flower. Soon after, it lifted its head. Its stem turned green and the brown went away. The tiny raindrops were happy.



The storm broke and the rain stopped. The sun came out and dried up the rain. It turned to steam and floated back up into the sky to form new clouds.

The small group that Rebecca and Rylee were in chose to form a new cloud where no mean raindrops were allowed. Every time they fell from the sky, they chose something that would be happy because they rained on it.













# How to be Happy Raindrops!

## AN EASY CROSSWORD



Most of the answers to the clues are in the story on pages 7-10.

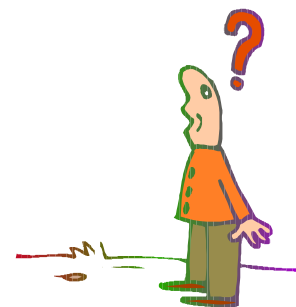
|   |  |     |      |  |  |   |   |   |     |   |
|---|--|-----|------|--|--|---|---|---|-----|---|
|   |  |     |      | 1 W  |  |   |   |   |     |   |
|    |  |     | 2 H  |  |  | 3 P   |   |   | 4 P |   |
| 5 C   |  | 6 B |      |     |  |   |  |   |     |   |
| 7 R   |  |     |      |  |  |   |   |   |     |   |
|   |  |     |      | 8 F  |  |   |   | 9 C   |     |  |
| 10 Y  |  |     |      |  |  |  |   |   |     |   |
|  |  |     | 11 B |  |  |   |   |   |     |   |
|   |  |     |      |  |  |   |   |  |     |   |

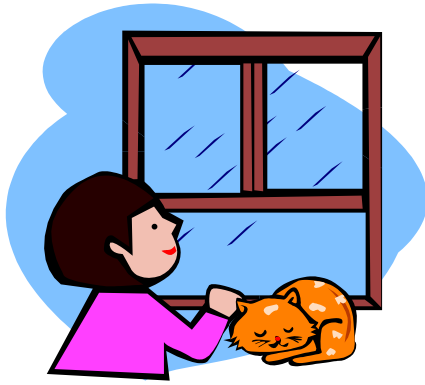
### DOWN

1. We cannot live without . . . .
3. The sound rain makes when it hits the ground. (It rhymes with drop.)
4. The little raindrops did not want to spoil the family's . . . .
5. The big raindrops fell on the . . . . after it had been polished.
6. The little raindrops did not want to make the . . . . and groom wet and spoil the beautiful wedding.
8. The . . . . was yellow.
9. There were no mean raindrops in the little raindrops' . . . .

### ACROSS

2. Being nice to everyone made the little raindrops feel very . . . .
7. A word from the title at the top of the page which has 9 letters in it.
10. The colour of the thirsty flower the little raindrops fell on.
11. The little raindrops were careful not to fall on the ice-cream the . . . . was eating.





## The Beautiful Day

The rain fell, and the corn in the fields grew green and tall.

"What a beautiful day," said the corn.

The rain fell, and the animals ran to the river to drink.

"What a beautiful day," said the animals.

The rain fell, and the shallow pools of the fish became deep and wide. "What a beautiful day," said the fish.

The rain fell, washing the hot dry dust from the camels in the desert sand. "What a beautiful day," said the camels.

The rain fell, and made little puddles for the birds to bathe in. "What a beautiful day," said the birds.

The rain fell, and the people in the street hurried by, wanting to get home. An old lady stood on the pavement feeling tired, until a little boy stopped and gave her a smile. "What a beautiful day," said the old lady.





## Where Go the Boats?

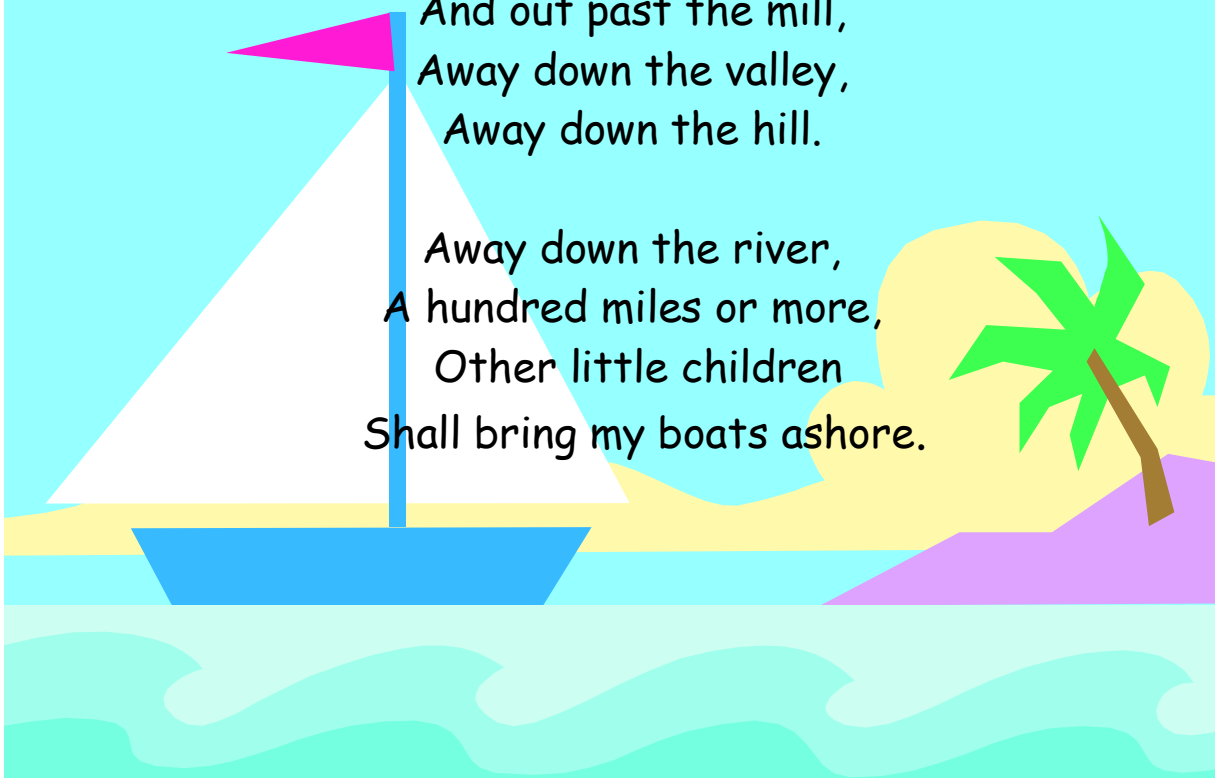
*by Robert Louis Stevenson*

Dark brown is the river,  
Golden is the sand.  
It flows along for ever,  
With trees on either hand.

Green leaves a-floating,  
Castles of the foam,  
Boats of mine a-boating —  
Where will all come home?

On goes the river,  
And out past the mill,  
Away down the valley,  
Away down the hill.

Away down the river,  
A hundred miles or more,  
Other little children  
Shall bring my boats ashore.





# How the Fly Saved the River

(A Native American story)

Many, many years ago when the world was new, there was a beautiful river. Fish in great numbers lived in this river, and its water was so pure and sweet that all the animals came there to drink.

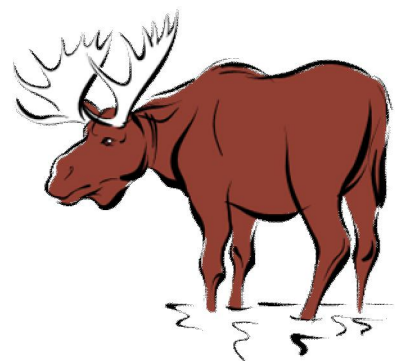
A giant moose heard about the river and he too came there to drink. But he was so big, and he drank so much, that soon the water began to sink lower and lower. The beavers were worried. The water around their lodges was disappearing. Soon their homes would be destroyed. The muskrats were worried, too. What would they do if the water vanished? How could they live? The fish were very worried. The other animals could live on land if the water dried up, but they couldn't.

All the animals tried to think of a way to drive the moose from the river, but he was so big that they were too afraid to try. Even the bear was afraid of him. At last the fly said he would try to drive the moose away. All the animals laughed and jeered. How could a tiny fly frighten a giant moose? The fly said nothing, but that day, as soon as the moose appeared, he went into action. He landed on the moose's foreleg and bit sharply.

The moose stamped his foot hard, and each time he stamped harder, the ground sank and the water rushed in to fill it up. Then the fly jumped about all over the moose, biting and biting and biting until the moose was in a frenzy. He dashed madly about the banks of the river, shaking his head, stamping his feet, snorting and blowing, but he couldn't get rid of that pesky fly. At last the moose fled from the river, and didn't come back.

The fly was very proud of his achievement, boasting to the other animals, "Even the small can fight the strong if they use their brains to think!"

*[Editor: I feel a bit sorry for the moose as he needed to drink as well! What do you think?]*



# "BE PLEASING WATERS"

Words from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

1 To ev'-ry mea - dow be a show'r of grace;  
2 Be a care-ful guide to all who've lost their way;

To ev-'ry tree the wa - ter of life.  
fa - ther and mo - ther to the or - phan.

Be as sweet musk to the sense of hu - man - kind;  
Lov - ing sons and daugh - ters to ---- the ---- old;

And to the ail - ing be a fresh re-stor - ing breeze.  
Be an ab - un --- dant -- trea - sure to the poor.

## Chorus x2

O ye lov - ers, ye lov - ers of God!

Care for ev - 'ry per - son, glad - den ev - 'ry heart.

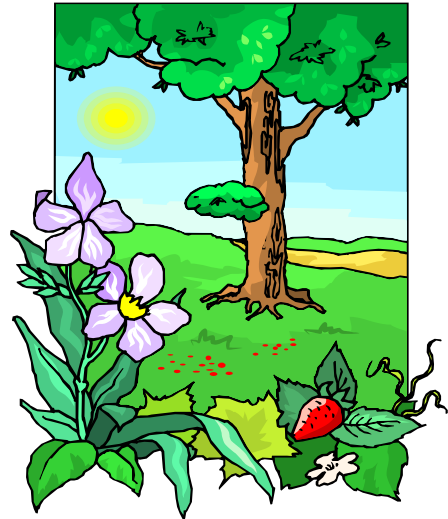
Be pleas - ing wa -- ters to all those who thirst.

Be pleas - ing wa -- ters to all those who thirst.



**Verse 1:**

To every meadow  
be a shower of grace;  
To every tree  
the water of life;  
Be as sweet musk  
to the sense of humankind,  
And to the ailing be a  
fresh, restoring breeze.

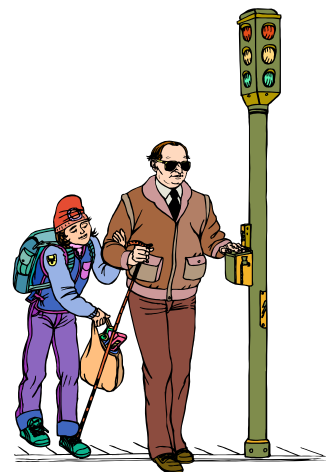


**Chorus:**

O ye lovers! Ye lovers of God!  
Care for every person,  
Gladden every heart.  
Be pleasing waters  
to all those who thirst.  
Be pleasing waters  
to all those who thirst.

**Verse 2:**

Be a careful guide to  
all who've lost their way;  
...father and mother to the orphan.  
Be loving sons and  
daughters to the old.  
Be an abundant  
treasure to the poor.



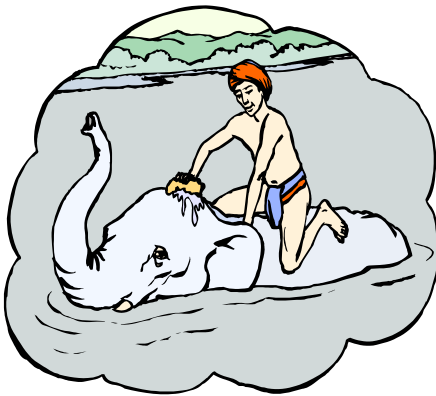
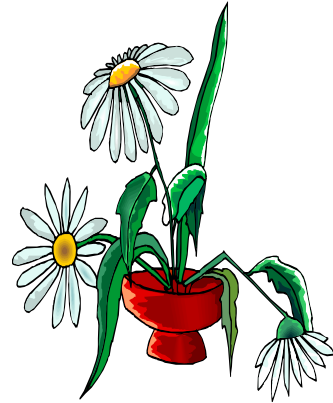
**Chorus:**

O ye lovers! Ye lovers of God!  
Care for every person,  
Gladden every heart.  
Be pleasing waters  
to all those who thirst.  
Be pleasing waters  
to all those who thirst.

## Why is Water Important?

### We need water for life:

- Nothing can live without it.
- It permeates everything (that is, it is present in everything).
- It circulates through every living thing, carrying the food and oxygen to all the cells.
- It carries away the waste materials.



### We need water for cleaning:

- Rains clean everything in nature.
- People and animals need water to wash their bodies on the outside.
- All animals and people are purified on the inside by clean water when they drink.

### Oceans:

- Life first took root in the oceans.
- Oceans are the lifeblood of our planet Earth.
- They produce more than half the oxygen in the air.
- The temperatures of the land are controlled by the oceans. They prevent it from being too hot; they stop it from being too cold.
- Because of the salt dissolved in the water, oceans purify and cleanse.
- Some parts of our seas are so deep that they haven't been explored. They are still a mystery.

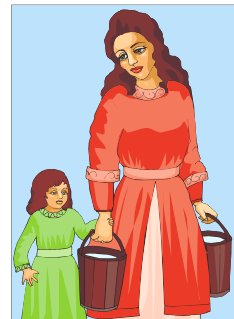


## Amazing Water Facts



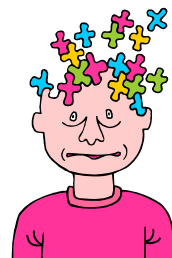
*Water is more precious than gold because we can't drink gold!*

- Water is the only substance on earth that naturally exists in three forms: solid, liquid and gas (ice, water, steam).
- Water expands (takes up more space) when it freezes. This is why ice is lighter than water, and floats on top.
- There is the same amount of water on Earth as there was when the Earth was formed. It is constantly being recycled. The water you drink could contain molecules that dinosaurs drank.
- In a 100-year period, a water molecule spends 98 years in the ocean — 20 months as ice, about 2 weeks in lakes and rivers, and less than a week in the atmosphere.
- 75% of the Earth is covered with water.
- 95% of the Earth's water is in the sea.
- Only 3% of the Earth's water can be used for drinking.
- In some countries there is not enough water. 1.2 billion people in the world do not have access to clean water.
- Most of the world's people must walk at least 3 hours to fetch water.



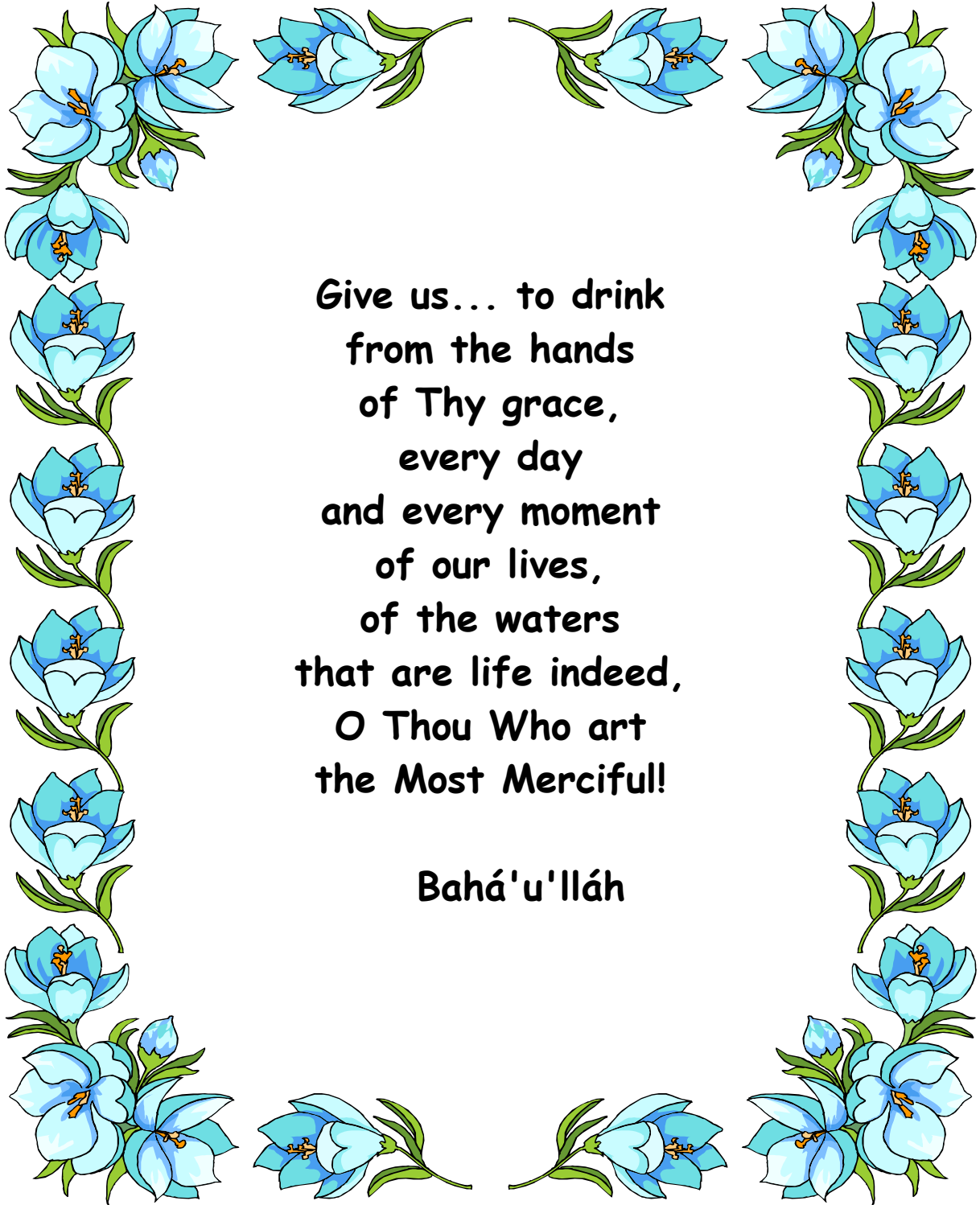
### Water and You

- About 60% of your body is water.
- Your brain is 75% water.
- Your blood is 82% water.
- Even though you could drown in just a few tablespoons of water, your lungs are nearly 90% water!
- A person can live about a month without food, but only about a week without water.



*Never throw rubbish into rivers and seas!*

**Our souls have needs too.  
Bahá'u'lláh tells us they are 'watered' when  
we pray and read His words.**



**Give us... to drink  
from the hands  
of Thy grace,  
every day  
and every moment  
of our lives,  
of the waters  
that are life indeed,  
O Thou Who art  
the Most Merciful!**

**Bahá'u'lláh**

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \*  
 \*  
 \*  
**Spiritual Water**  
 \*  
 \*  
 \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá often compare spiritual things to ordinary things to help us understand spiritual ideas. Read the quotations, think about what each one means, then see if you can answer the questions.

*"...material water does not purify the heart of man; no, it cleanses his body. But the heavenly water ... makes the human heart good and pure."*

1. What cleans our bodies?

m \_\_\_\_\_

w \_\_\_\_\_

2. What makes our hearts good and pure?

h \_\_\_\_\_

w \_\_\_\_\_



3. Write one example of heavenly water that makes our hearts pure:

-----

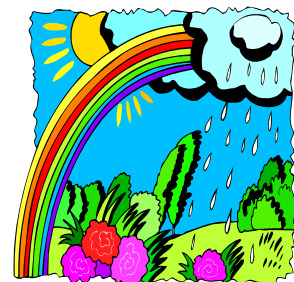
*"Not for a moment hath ... the showers of His loving-kindness ceased to rain upon mankind."*

1. What has never stopped raining upon mankind?

God's L \_\_\_\_\_ K \_\_\_\_\_

2. Write one example of God's loving-kindness:

-----



**Bahá'u'lláh tells us that when we read His Words, it is like diving into an ocean where we can find wonderful spiritual treasures.**



Hidden in this word search are some of the treasures you might be able to discover. Some words go forwards and backwards, some up and down, and some go diagonally.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | U | H | T | U | R | T | A | Z | T |
| Y | N | X | W | B | E | V | P | K | U |
| D | D | O | R | F | Q | U | F | I | H |
| G | E | L | I | P | R | M | Z | N | X |
| V | R | L | C | I | Y | O | J | D | E |
| B | S | N | T | L | O | V | I | N | G |
| H | T | Y | J | K | L | M | M | E | D |
| H | A | P | P | I | N | E | S | S | E |
| G | N | F | D | S | A | R | Q | S | L |
| R | D | E | G | R | A | C | E | W | W |
| T | I | Y | U | I | O | Y | P | Z | O |
| C | N | W | I | S | D | O | M | X | N |
| V | G | L | A | N | R | E | T | E | K |



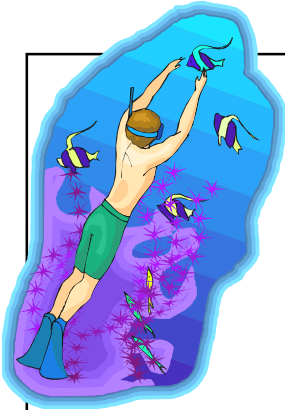
These are the treasures hidden in the puzzle:

WISDOM      MERCY      GRACE      KNOWLEDGE      JOY

UNDERSTANDING      LOVING / KINDNESS

HAPPINESS      TRUTH      PURITY      ETERNAL / LIFE

# QUOTES ABOUT WATER



“Rivers are roads which move.”

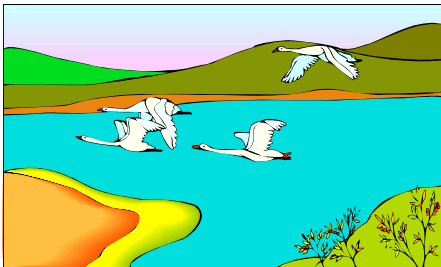
Blaise Pascal  
(1623-1662. French mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer and philosopher)

“Everywhere water is a thing of beauty, gleaming in the dewdrop, singing in the summer rain.”

John Ballantine Gough (British/American orator)

“The water you kids were playing in,” he said, “had probably been to Africa and the North Pole. Genghis Khan or Saint Peter or even Jesus may have drunk it. Cleopatra might have bathed in it. Crazy Horse might have watered his pony with it... Always cherish it. Always beware of it.”

Jeannette Walls, author of *Half Broke Horses*



“Moving water . . . has a thousand colours and a thousand shapes.”

Roderich Haig-Brown  
(Canadian writer and environmentalist)



“When you drink the water, remember the spring.”

[i.e., remember where it comes from — God]

Chinese Proverb

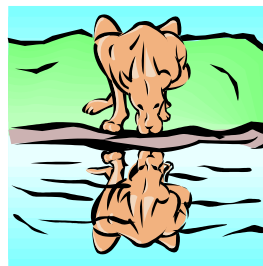
“Rivers, ponds, lakes and streams — they all have different names, but they all contain water. Just as religions do — they all contain truths.”

Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay, boxer & philosopher)



“Water flows. When you plunge your hand into it, all you feel is a caress.”

Margaret Atwood  
(author)



“Let the rain kiss you. Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops. Let the rain sing you a lullaby.”

Langston Hughes  
(American poet)

## The Legend of Niagara Falls



In old, old times,  
on the highest peak of a great mountain dwelt a hunter and  
his five sparkling daughters. Their lodge was of bright birch bark,  
and on clear days they could see the distant sea  
flashing like a silver band.

"Come out! Come out!" cried the youngest daughter, the little Er.  
"Come, Su! Come Mi! Come, Hu! Come, Cla! Let us away to the sea  
where the foaming breakers roar!"

So they left their lodge, and leaped, and sang  
with happy hearts.

Their robes were of blue and chrysolite green,  
and floated on the breeze.

Their moccasins were of frozen water-drops,  
and their wings of painted wind.

At last they came to a precipice of jagged rocks and moss.

"Alas!" cried Er, "what a fearful leap! But we have come so far,  
we must go on, or our father will laugh at us!

So come, Su! Come, Hu! Come, Mi! Come, Cla!

And follow me."

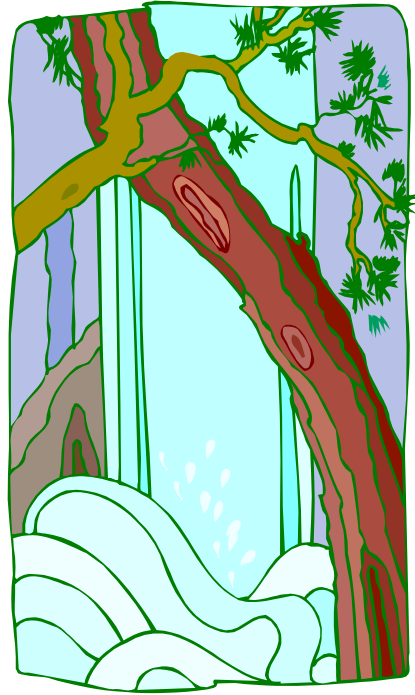


Over the steep they sprang,  
and floated down on their painted  
wings.

They leaped and they skipped  
and they sang,  
like happy-hearted birds.

Then little Er cried,  
"Let us up and down the steep again!"

So up and down,  
the five maids skipped and laughed  
at the sport and foam, and called it  
Niagara Falls!



And to-day,  
through the rainbow mist,  
you may see their robes  
of blue and chrysolite green,  
and their painted wings,  
and their  
twinkling feet  
as the five play in the  
waterfall.

# 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: *Some of the Bábís are sheltering in the shrine of a holy man called Shaykh Tabarsí, which they have transformed into a fort to protect themselves from their enemies. Mullá Husayn has sent seven men to rescue Quddús, who is imprisoned in a nearby village. The rescue is successful and Quddús is triumphantly brought back to the fort to join the other believers.*

## Part 31

### **Bahá'u'lláh is Arrested Again**

After the rescue of Quddús and his safe arrival at the fort of Shaykh Tabarsí, the Báb instructed the friends from all over Persia to try to go to the fort to help their fellow-believers. Over three hundred came. Táhirih wanted to go as well but she was being held as a prisoner in the house of the mayor of Tíhrán.

Bahá'u'lláh had set off with several other believers. They were nine miles away from the fort when they stopped to rest at an empty house by the side of the road. Bahá'u'lláh urged His companions not to stay long because soldiers were roaming the area trying to prevent the Bábís reaching the fort. But His friends said they were very tired and wanted to spend the night in the house.

When they woke up next morning, they found the house surrounded by soldiers. They were all arrested and taken to a nearby town called Amul.

The religious leaders in Amul were a bloodthirsty lot. When Bahá'u'lláh was taken to the mosque to be questioned, the priests told the people of the



town to come with whatever weapons they had.

Farmers brought pitchforks and blacksmiths brought hammers. Butchers brought knives and carpenters brought axes.

Their plan was to

rush at Bahá'u'lláh at a signal from the priests and kill Him.

Everyone crowded into the mosque, where a priest was waving a piece of paper that had been found in the pocket of one of the believers. It was written in the handwriting of the Báb and the priest was making fun of it as he read it aloud. He said the grammar was all wrong and it did not make sense. He did not realise that the verse written on the paper was a quotation from the Muslim writings, which the priest already believed in!

Bahá'u'lláh quietly explained this to the priest. He also explained its meaning and how the grammar was absolutely correct. The priest became silent, feeling rather silly.



But the other priests continued to try to find fault with Bahá'u'lláh, and

the mob became wilder and wilder, waiting for a chance to attack Him.

\* \* \*

The deputy governor of Amul became worried at the ugly mood of the people. Although he had done nothing to stop the priests from verbally attacking Bahá'u'lláh, he did not want Him killed! However, he felt he had to do something to satisfy all the people otherwise there would be a riot.

He decided that the soldiers should punish the believers who were with Bahá'u'lláh by hitting them on the soles of their feet. This was the bastinado and the same punishment the Báb had suffered recently in Tabríz.

Bahá'u'lláh did not want His companions to be hurt, so He intervened. He told the soldiers not to hit them but to hit His feet instead. So that is what they did.

Shortly after this, the governor himself returned to Amul. He had been away when all this was happening and he was very angry with the deputy governor for having arrested Bahá'u'lláh. Although he did not understand anything about the new teachings, he greatly respected Bahá'u'lláh and admired the Bábís for their bravery. A few days later, Bahá'u'lláh and the friends with Him were ordered to return to Tihrán.

Bahá'u'lláh was disappointed when He was unable to return to help the believers in the fort, but God had another Plan for Him.

*“All the kingdoms of heaven and earth  
and whatever is between them  
are God’s,  
and His power is supreme over all things.”*

The Báb

*(To be continued)*



## The Kitáb-i-Aqdas ~ The Most Holy Book

### Lesson Twenty-Four

**Bahá'u'lláh says in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas (verse 74)**

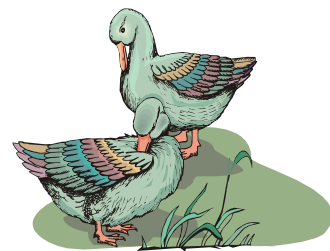
**"Be ye the very essence of cleanliness  
amongst mankind.  
This, truly, is what your Lord,  
the Incomparable, the All-Wise,  
desireth for you."**

***What does God desire for us? (see quotation above)***

The Writings speak a lot about cleanliness and water. All religions speak about it. Sometimes it means physical cleanliness. Sometimes it means something spiritual, like obeying the Teachings of God which makes our hearts and thoughts pure.

***What makes our hearts and thoughts pure?***

It is important to keep ourselves both outwardly and inwardly clean. Have you noticed how birds clean their wings with their beaks, carefully combing their feathers so they are shiny and smooth? If their feathers are dirty, they cannot fly. And have you noticed how cats are always licking their fur to clean



it? If they didn't, their coats would become matted and dirty and wouldn't keep them dry in the rain or warm in winter.



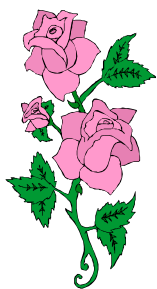
We also need to keep our bodies clean outside so our skin can breathe and not become clogged up with dirt, and to remember to wash our hands so no germs get passed onto the food we eat and make us ill. Bahá'u'lláh says to wear clean clothes and bathe in clean water and to wash our hands and face before saying our daily obligatory prayers. He says that we should not eat or drink anything that is harmful, such as dirty water, alcohol or drugs. It is also important to keep our thoughts clean by only thinking good things, and to purify our tongues by not saying bad words or bad things about people. Just as we wash to keep our bodies clean, the way to keep our souls clean and pure is to obey the laws of God.

*What is harmful for us to eat or drink?*

*How can we keep our thoughts clean?*

*How can we purify our tongues?*

*Why is it important to obey the laws of God?*



The story on the next page is about one of the believers in Persia who lived in the time of Bahá'u'lláh and had a pure heart. He also made perfume from water and roses.



## The Maker of Perfume of Roses

Hájí Mullá Mihdí was famous for making rose-water. It was called “Attar of Roses”, which means “Perfume of Roses”. Bahá’u’lláh says in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas “Make use of rose-water and pure perfume” and ‘Abdu’l-Bahá often anointed the friends with it when they went to the Holy Shrines.



One day Hájí was holding a meeting in his house, where the friends were singing and chanting the prayers of Bahá’u’lláh. One of the friends had a particularly lovely voice and the beautiful sound floated out of the window.

The head religious leader of the town heard them chanting and became angry that the Bahá’ís were holding such a meeting because he thought that only his religion was right. He beat Hájí Mullá Mihdí with a stick and ordered him to leave the town at once. So Hájí left with his two sons and they began to walk the hundreds of miles from Persia to ‘Akká to see Bahá’u’lláh.

Hájí was already a very old man and he became tired with so much walking. But he kept on, over hot and dusty deserts and up and down snowy mountains. On the way he stopped at every town and village to teach the Faith and tell people about Bahá’u’lláh.

He did not have proper shoes to wear and his feet became bruised and sore from the stony roads, but he went on and on walking until at last he came to a village close to the house where Bahá’u’lláh lived, a few miles outside ‘Akká.

Hájí’s heart sang with joy at the thought of soon being with Bahá’u’lláh. But now he was so weak and ill he could not walk any further. He lay down by the side of the road, closed his eyes, and died.

When Bahá’u’lláh heard the news His heart was moved with love. He built a grave on the spot where Hájí died and praised his pure soul which was now with God in the Abhá Kingdom. He also wrote special letters for Hájí’s sons and grandchildren, who became wonderful Bahá’ís.

And every time Bahá’u’lláh walked down the road past the grave of this dear believer, He stopped to say a prayer for Hájí Mullá Mihdí, the dearly loved maker of perfume of roses.



