

Mystic Ramblings and Daydreaming

Badi Shams

Cover design by Douglas Wilson

Dedicated:
To Lesley Shams to thank her for suggesting
and encouraging me to write down my ramblings
and editing them.

Introduction

These ramblings reflect my longing as a puny human being to get to know my Creator and to get close to Him. My feelings and thoughts are scattered, confused, sad, happy, hopeful, and, in a sense, keep me company in my mystic journey. They are entries in the diary of my soul.

These feelings are the product of my mind to make sense of my creation and part in this vast universe. The sources of these ramblings are the Holy Writings of all Religions, especially the Baha'i Faith and Rumi and other mystics that steered my soul to different planes.

The Holy Writings of all Religions have taught me oneness, love and service:

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. -James 1:22
“For service in love for mankind is unity with God.” -Abdu'l-Baha

And mystics nurtured my soul and taught it to fly:

“If you are irritated by every rub, how will your mirror be polished?” -Rumi
“Love is simply creation's greatest joy.” -Hafez

For your reading pleasure, I have shared some of my favourite quotes from Holy Souls and poets on each page.

The journey of life is long, and the end is unknown. But with a Guide like Him, reaching the destination is assured. All that is needed is submission to the Wish of the Beloved.

Badi Shams
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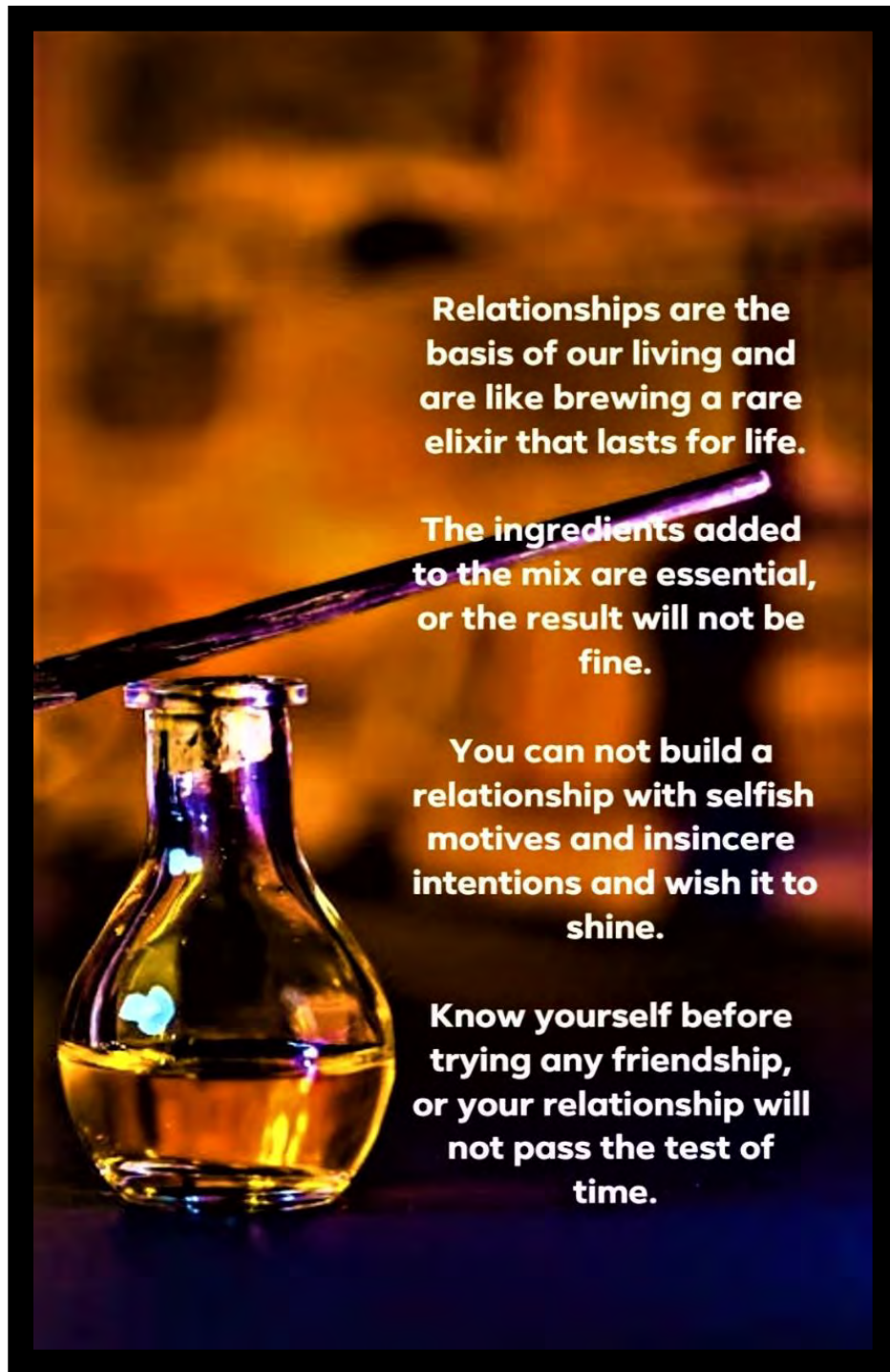
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School of Learning

**In the school of
my Beloved, pain
and sorrow are
the loving
lessons of
patience and
wisdom, pay
attention, my
friend, and learn
more.**

**Your life is
worthless
without smelling
the sweet
fragrance of the
rose of His love
and suffering
the pain of its
thorns.**

Know Yourself



Relationships are the basis of our living and are like brewing a rare elixir that lasts for life.

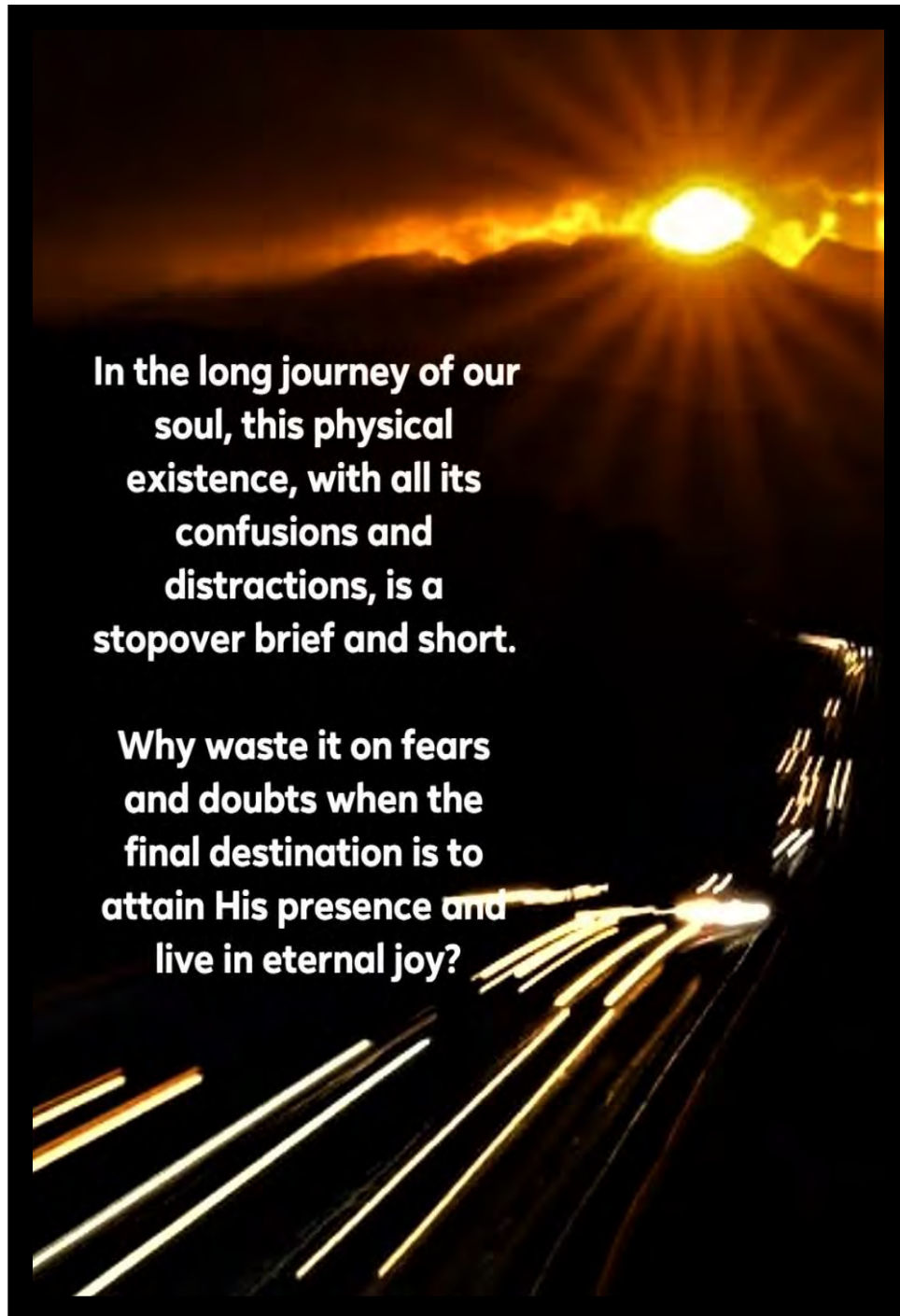
The ingredients added to the mix are essential, or the result will not be fine.

You can not build a relationship with selfish motives and insincere intentions and wish it to shine.

Know yourself before trying any friendship, or your relationship will not pass the test of time.

*May friendship ancient hatred reconcile.
May love grow from the seed of love we sow." ~Tahirih*

Journey of Life

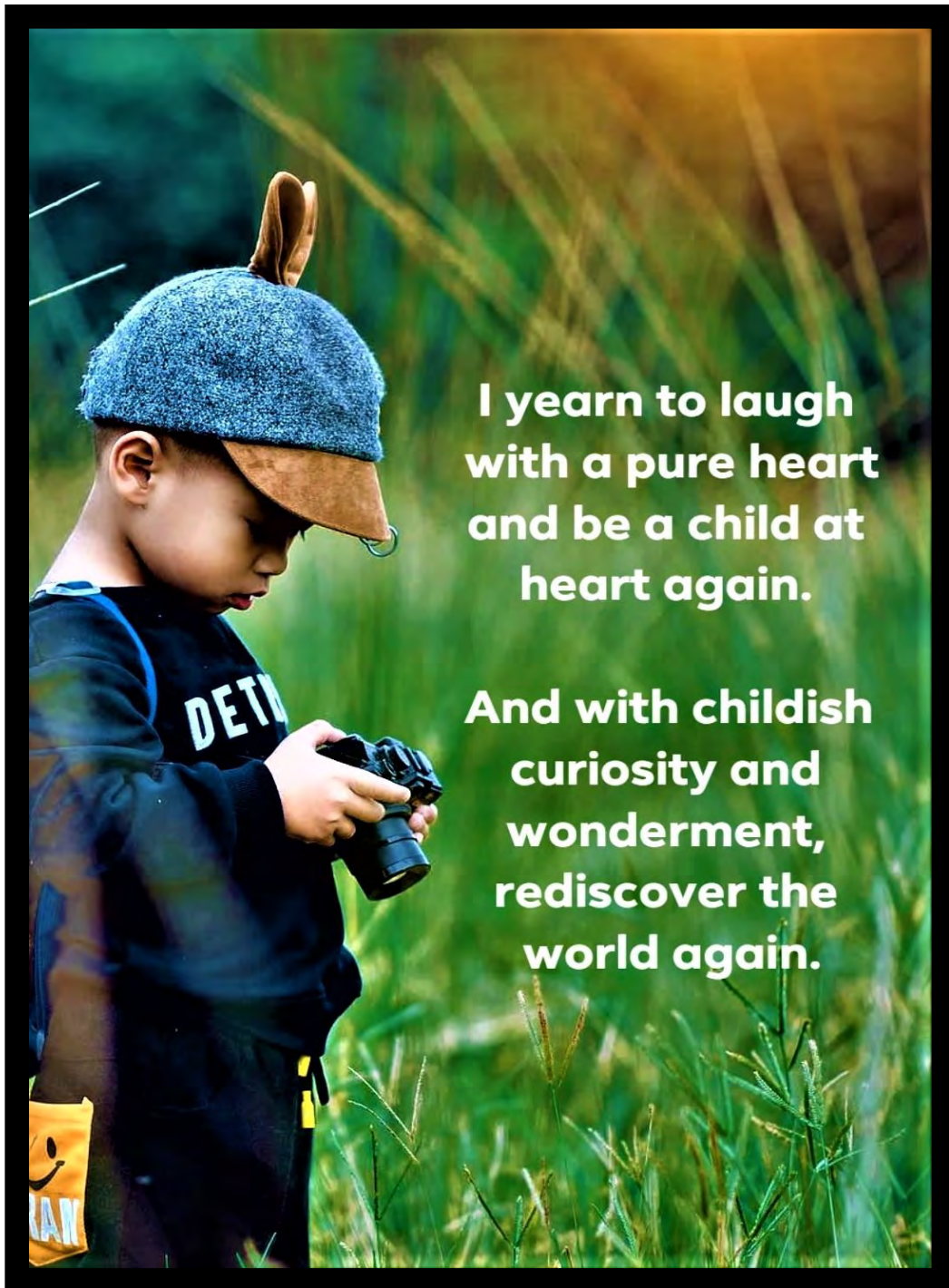


**In the long journey of our
soul, this physical
existence, with all its
confusions and
distractions, is a
stopover brief and short.**

**Why waste it on fears
and doubts when the
final destination is to
attain His presence and
live in eternal joy?**

“The world is but a show, vain and empty, a mere nothing, bearing the semblance of reality. Set not your affections upon it.” ~Bahá’u’lláh

Childish Innocence



**I yearn to laugh
with a pure heart
and be a child at
heart again.**

**And with childish
curiosity and
wonderment,
rediscover the
world again.**

"He is God! O God my God! Bestow upon me a pure heart, like unto a pearl." ~Abdu'l-Bahá

The Magnet of Love

**I wish, like millions
of planets held
together by
magnetic power.**

**Humanity, too, is
drawn by the
magnet of love
and becomes one.**

**Is this not the
cause of our
creation and the
wish of our
Beloved?**

*"What a power is love! It is the most wonderful, the greatest of all living powers."
~Abdu'l-Bahá*

Language of the Soul

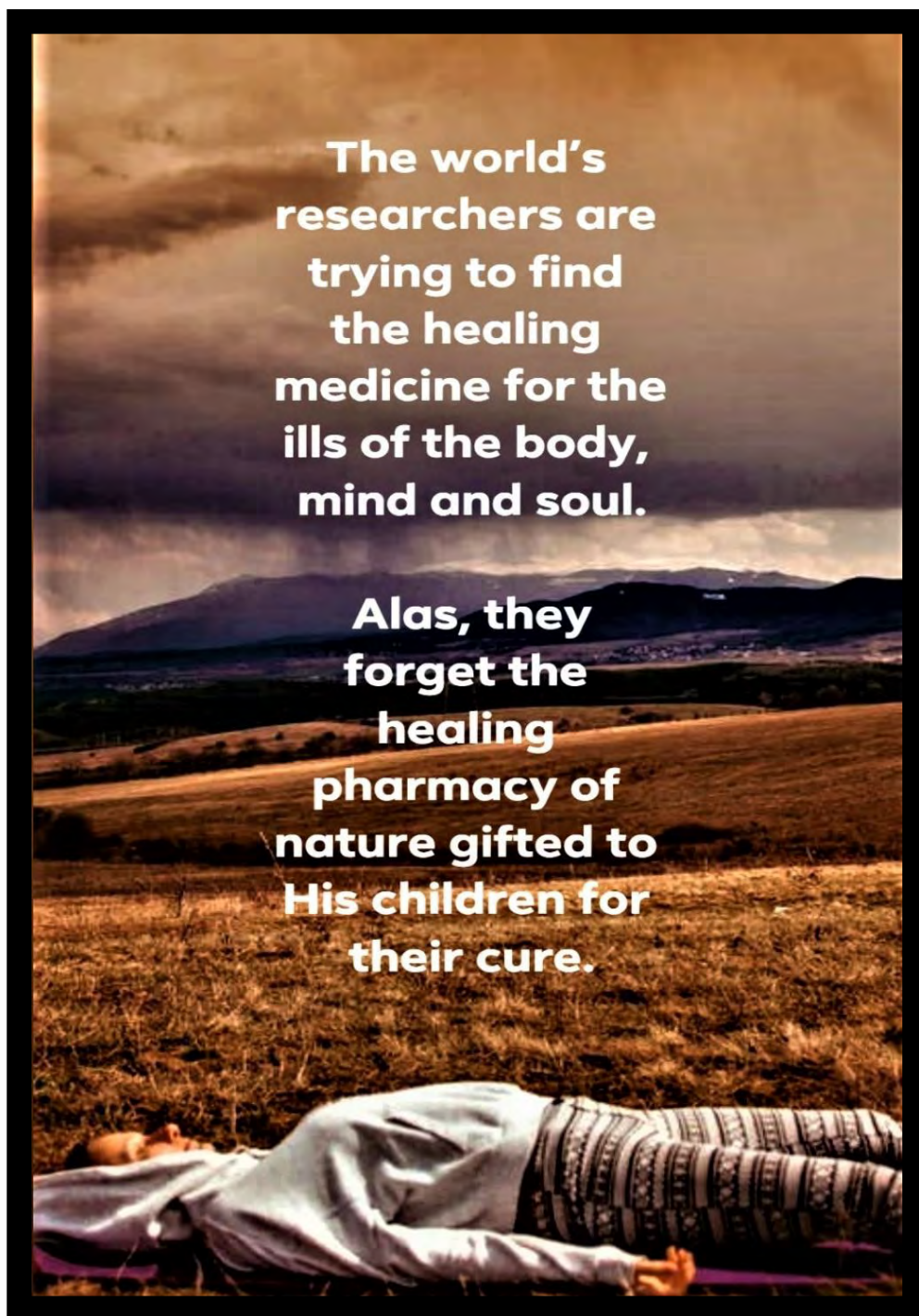


Oh, the agony,
the misery of my
tongue trying to
garment the
words of my
soul.

How can the
bird of this
earthly world
sing the praise
of my Lord?

*"If ever I should behold you face to face, eye to eye,
I would be bold to recount my heart's plaint point by point, verse by verse."
~Tahirih*

Nature's Healing Medicine



“Say: Nature in its essence is the embodiment of My Name, the Maker, the Creator.” ~Bahá'u'lláh

Dark Road

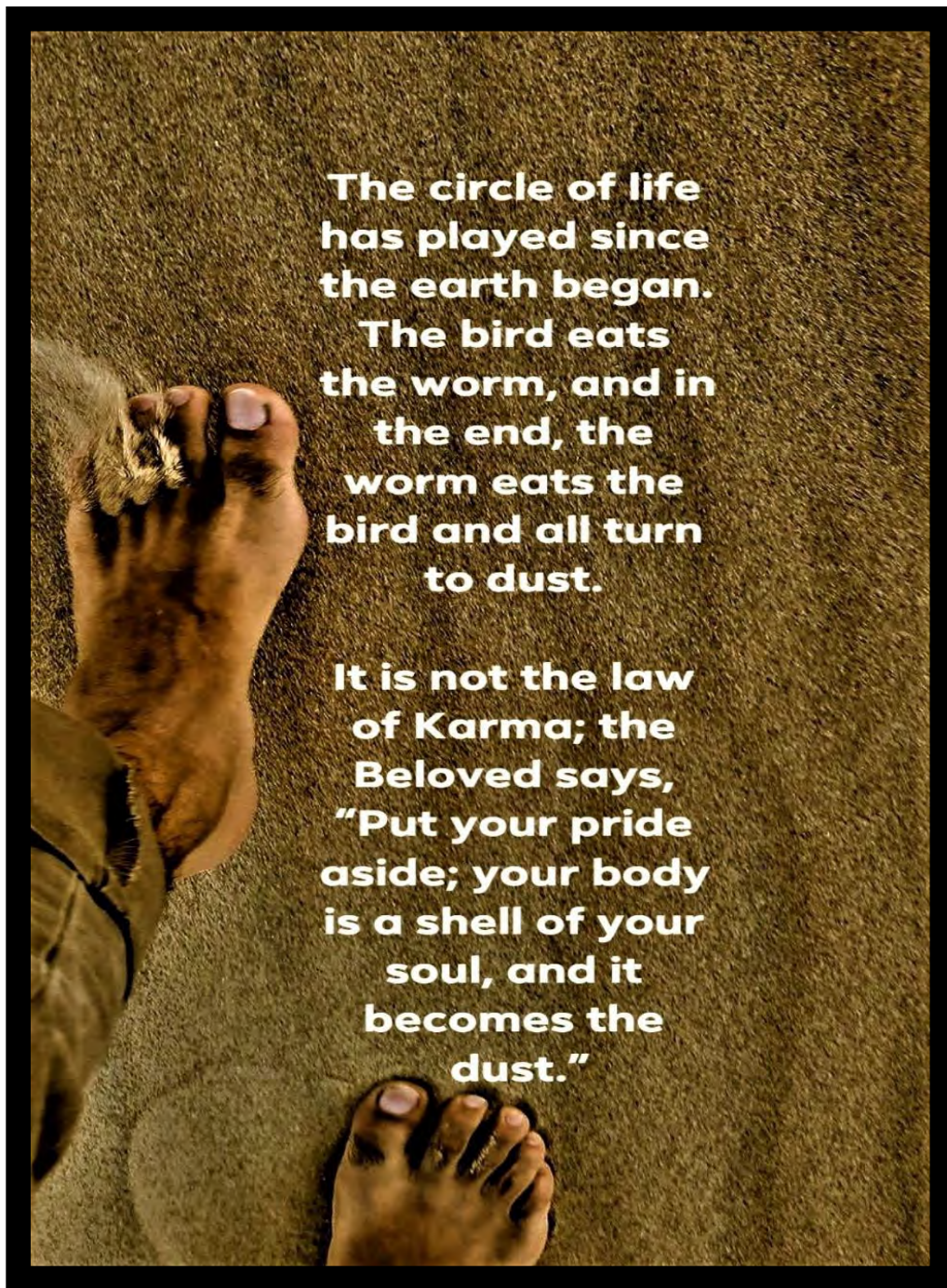


**I journeyed safely
on the dark and
stormy spiritual
road with no map.**

**The Beloved's
Mercy shone on
me; otherwise,
many a soul
perished following
their old map.**

*"It's your road, and yours alone. Others may walk it with you, but no one
can walk it for you." ~Rumi*

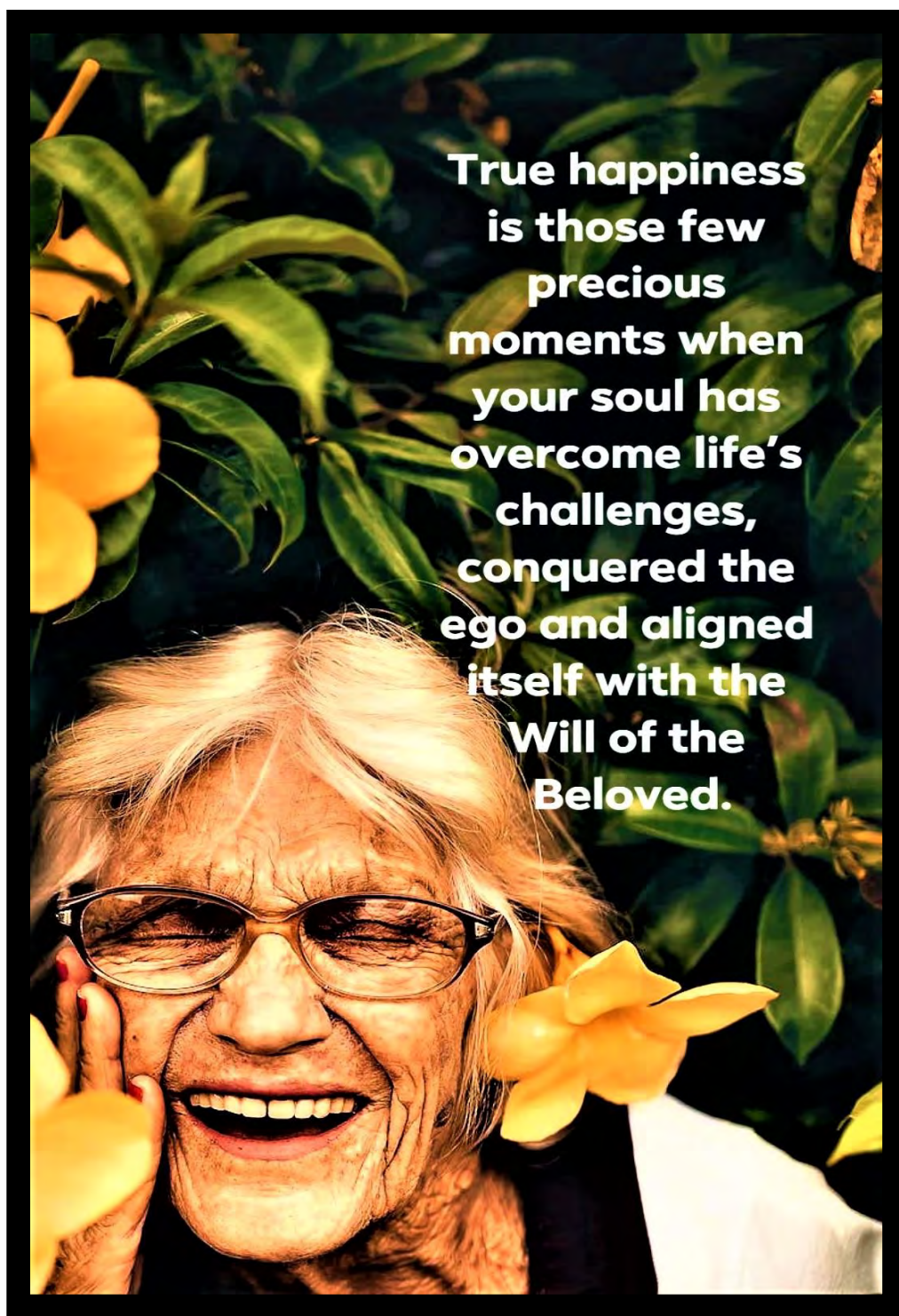
Circle of Dust



"O Son of Dust! Turn not away thine eyes from the matchless wine of the immortal Beloved, and open them not to foul and mortal dregs." -

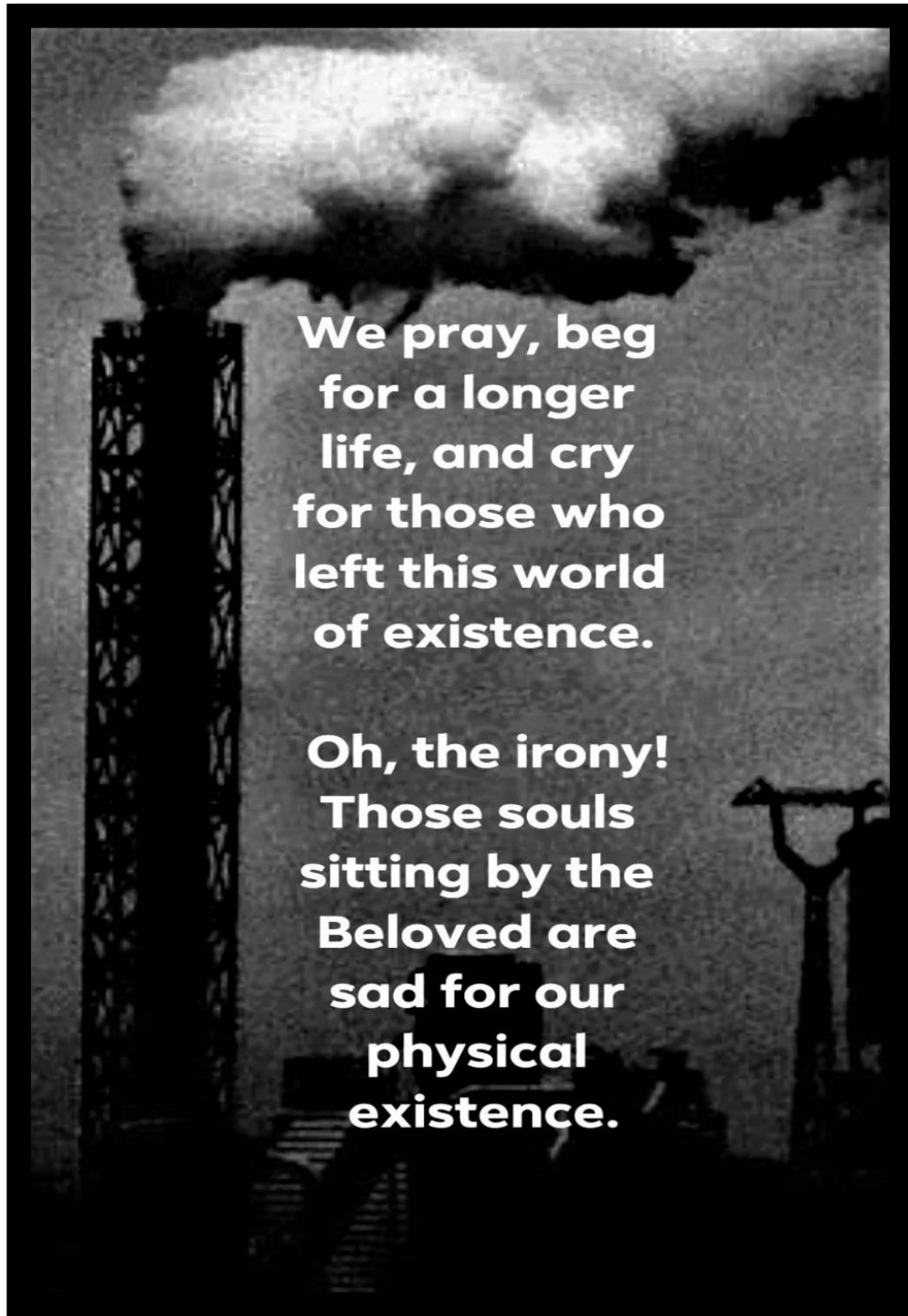
~Bahá'u'lláh

True Happiness



"If we are not happy and joyous at this season, for what other season shall we wait and for what other time shall we look?" -~Abdu'l-Bahá

Physical Existence




**We pray, beg
for a longer
life, and cry
for those who
left this world
of existence.**

**Oh, the irony!
Those souls
sitting by the
Beloved are
sad for our
physical
existence.**

*"Don't be satisfied with stories, how things have gone with others.
Unfold your own myth." ~Rumi*

Everlasting Gift

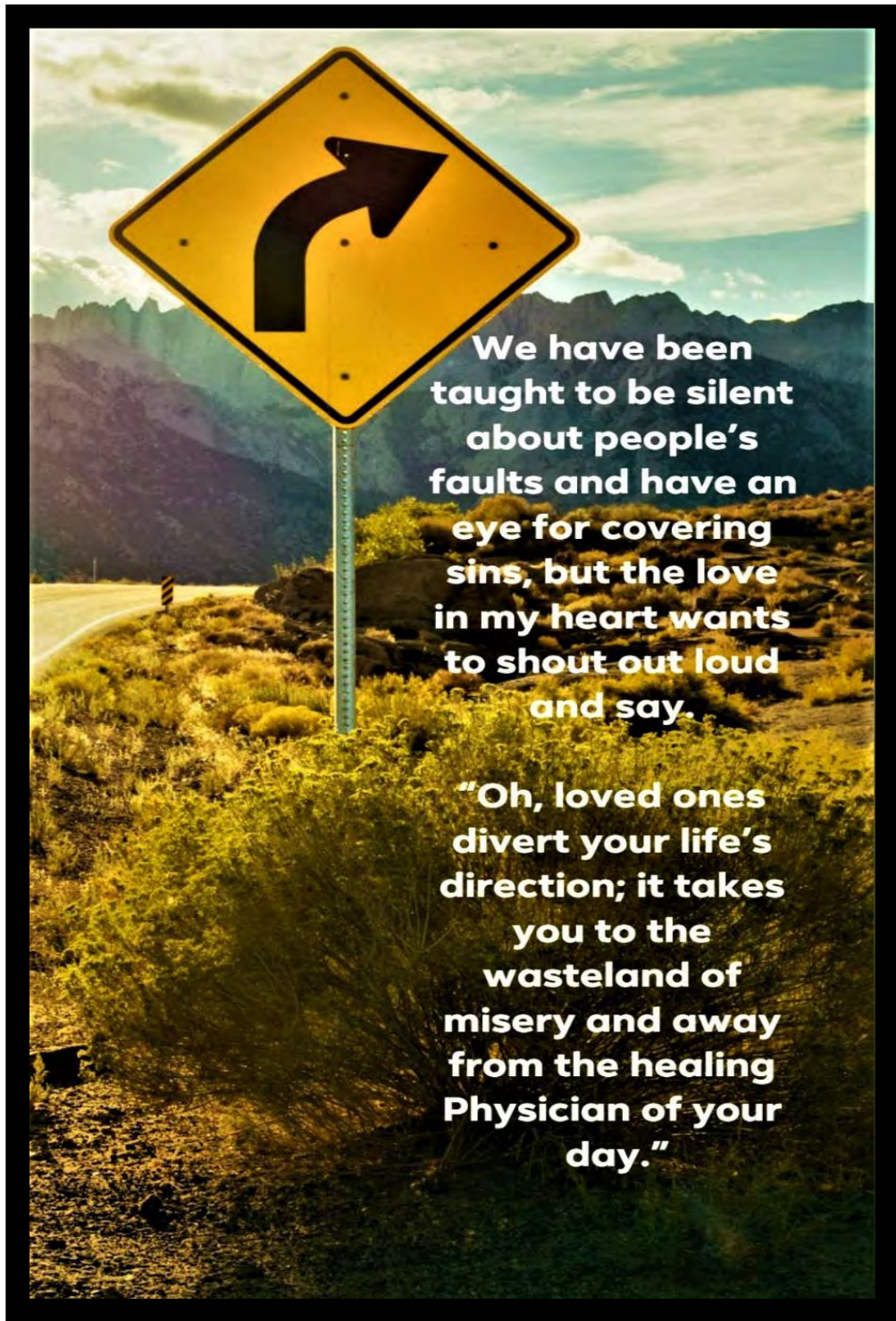


**The joys of
material gifts
are short-lived,
like vapours on
a hot summer
day.**

**But the
impressions of
real love last
forever, like
the paintings
on a wall of
the ancient
caves.**

"Man can receive no greater gift than this, that he rejoice another's heart." -~Abdu'l-Bahá

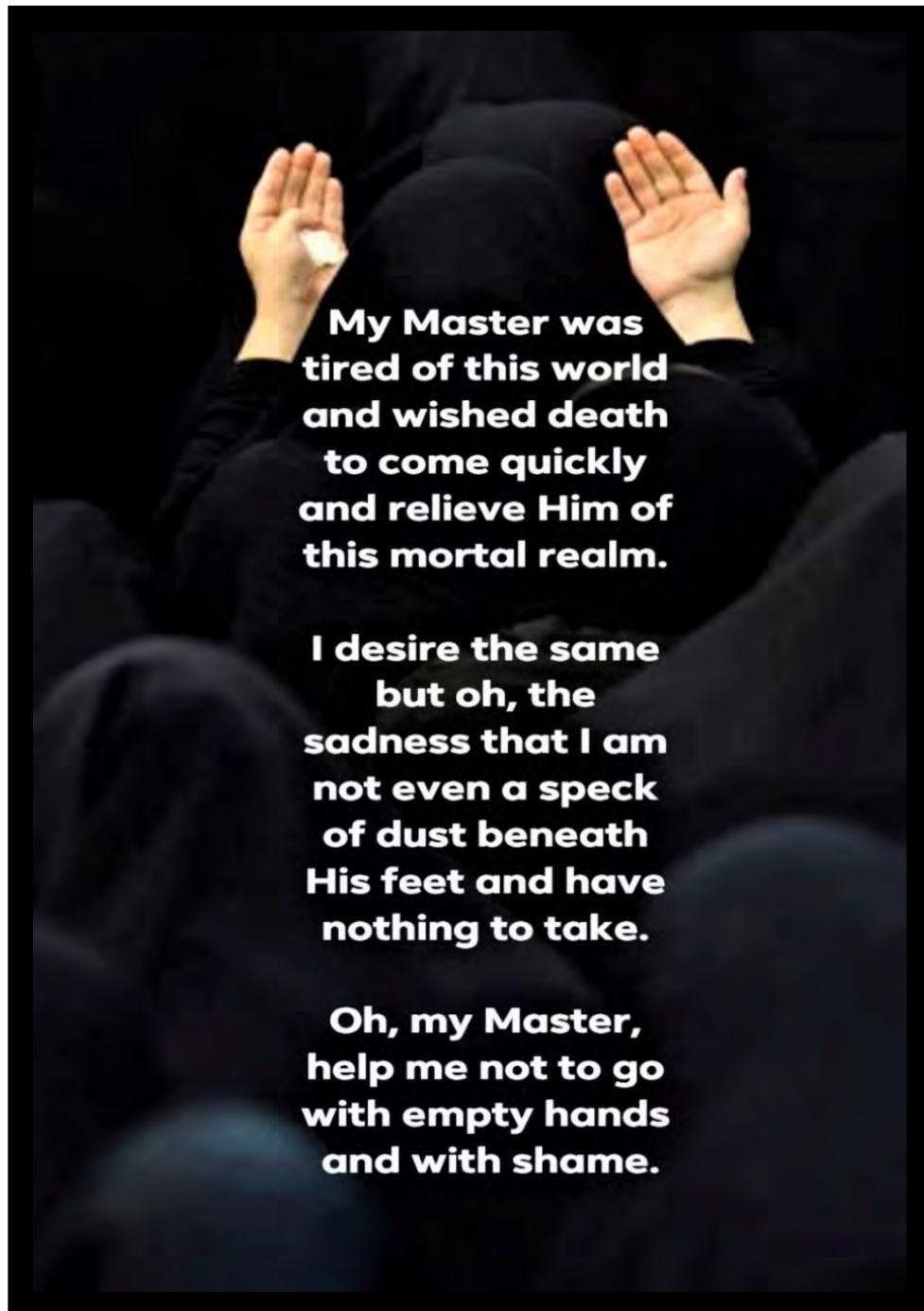
Sin Covering Eye



"Finding the negative in people is easy, but seeing good shows maturity."

~Luke 4:4

Wish To Leave



**My Master was
tired of this world
and wished death
to come quickly
and relieve Him of
this mortal realm.**

**I desire the same
but oh, the
sadness that I am
not even a speck
of dust beneath
His feet and have
nothing to take.**

**Oh, my Master,
help me not to go
with empty hands
and with shame.**

*“The “life to come,” on the other hand, signifieth the things that give you
a safe approach to God, the All-Glorious, the Incomparable.”*

~Bahá'u'lláh

Lives Without Passion

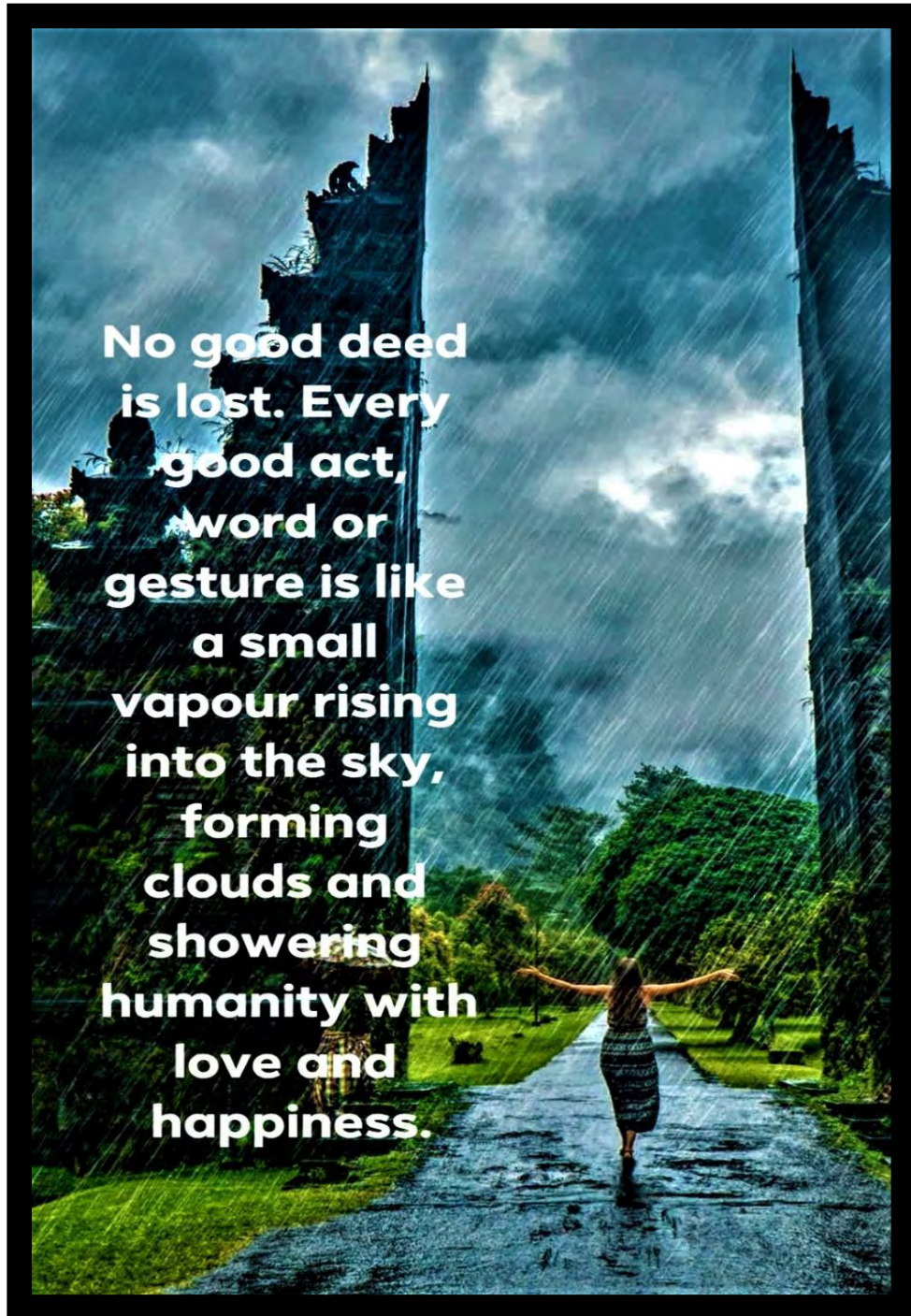


**In our fast-paced,
materialistic lives,
passion and
longing to connect,
share and grow in
spirit are seen as
childish and utter
weakness.**

**My heart aches
that human
expressions have
become instant
gratification, short-
lived bursts of
shallow emotions
and callous
indifference.**

“You were born with wings, why prefer to crawl through life?” ~Rumi

Good Deeds



**No good deed
is lost. Every
good act,
word or
gesture is like
a small
vapour rising
into the sky,
forming
clouds and
showering
humanity with
love and
happiness.**

*"Better than a beautiful face is a beautiful heart, and better than a beautiful word
is a beautiful deed." ~Iman Ali*

Seasonal Giving

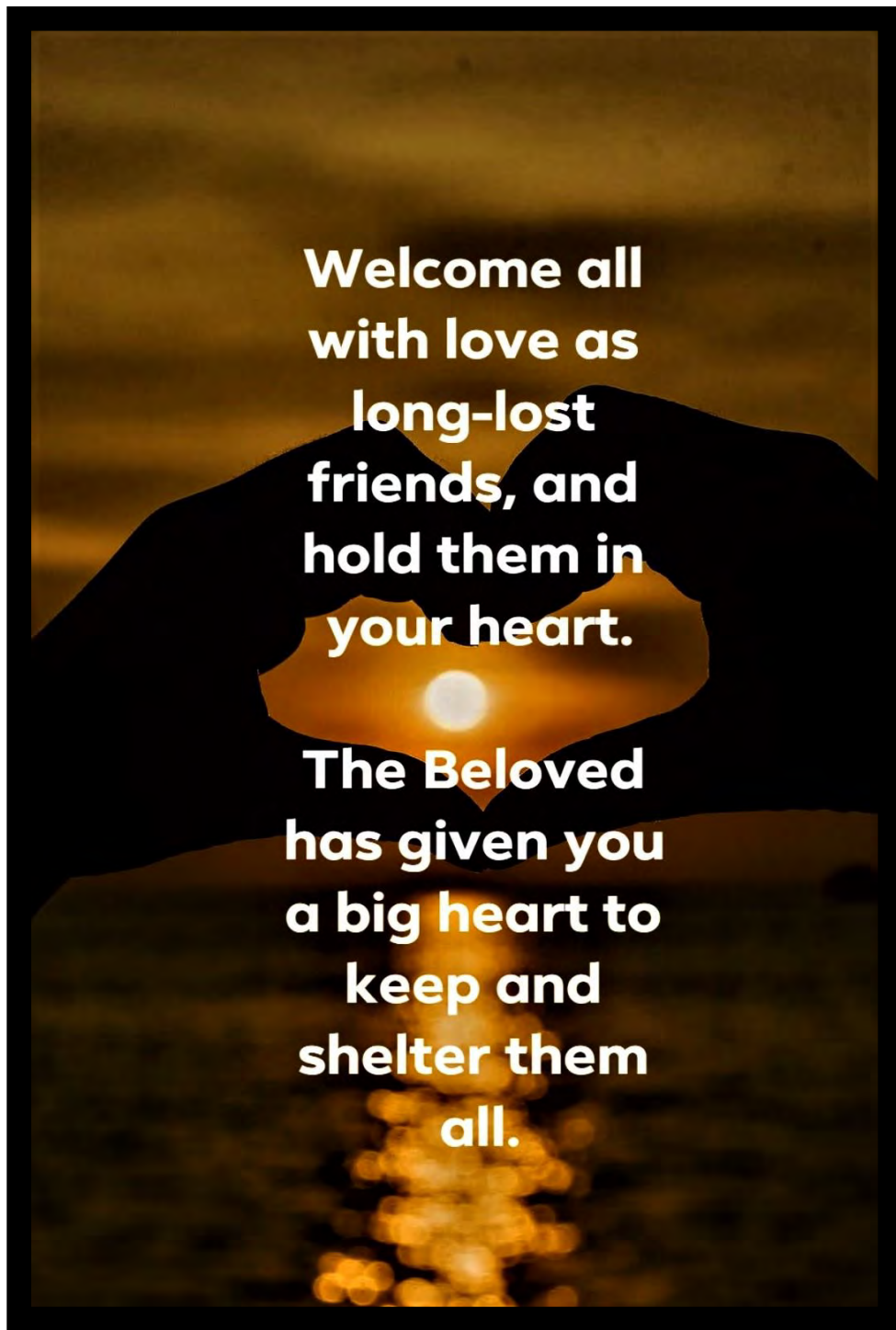
**Christmas, Eid, and
other holy
festivities come
and go. The short-
lived hypes of
feeding the poor
and needy come
and vanish.**

**The Beloved sadly
asks, "who will
feed my children
when the season
of giving is
finished"?**

**HOMELESS
AND
HUNGRY**

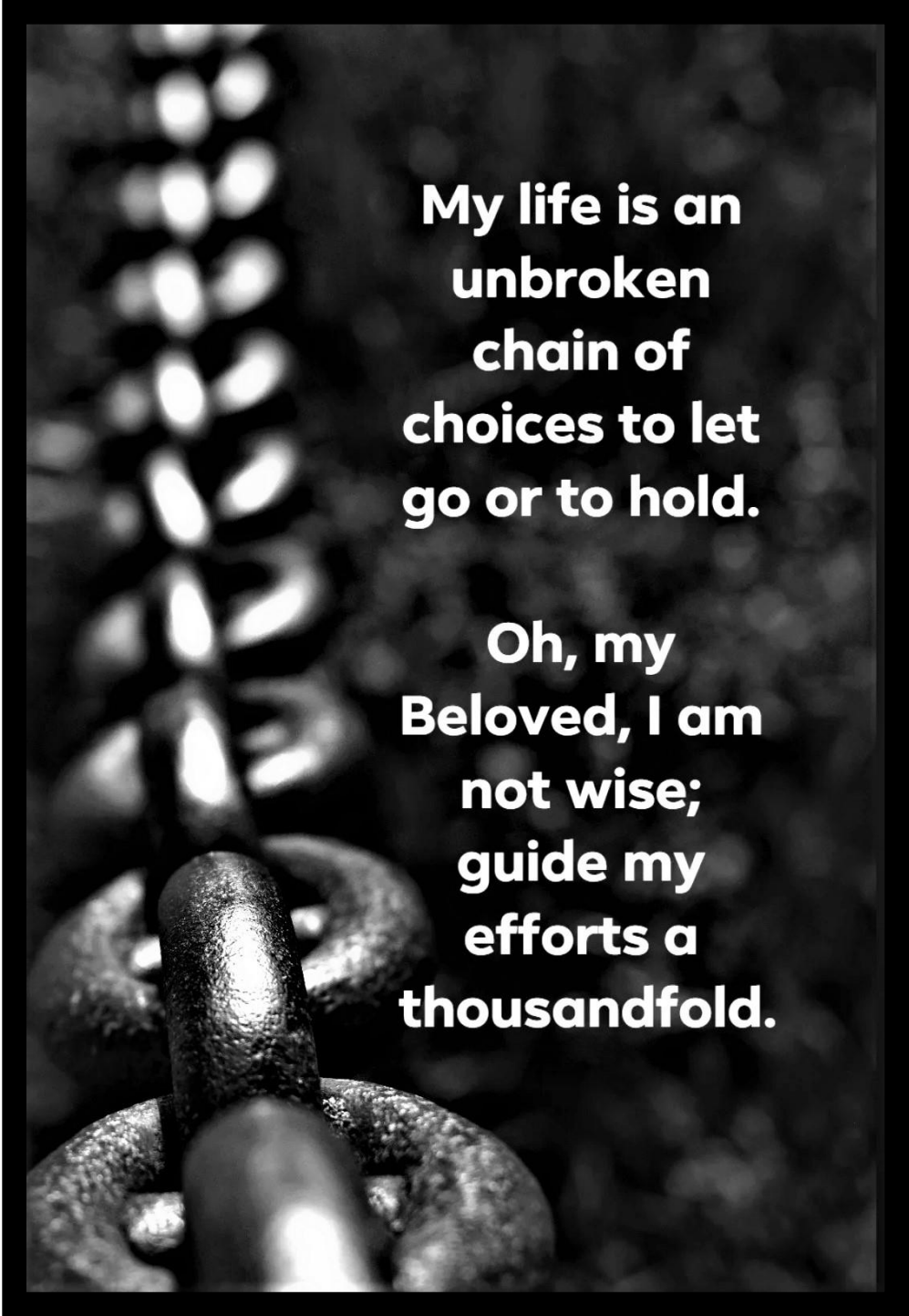
*"O ye rich ones on earth! The poor in your midst are My trust; guard ye
My trust, and be not intent only on your own ease." ~Bahá'u'lláh*

Lost Friends



*"Be grateful for whoever comes, because each has been sent as a guide
from beyond." ~Rumi*

Choices



**My life is an
unbroken
chain of
choices to let
go or to hold.**

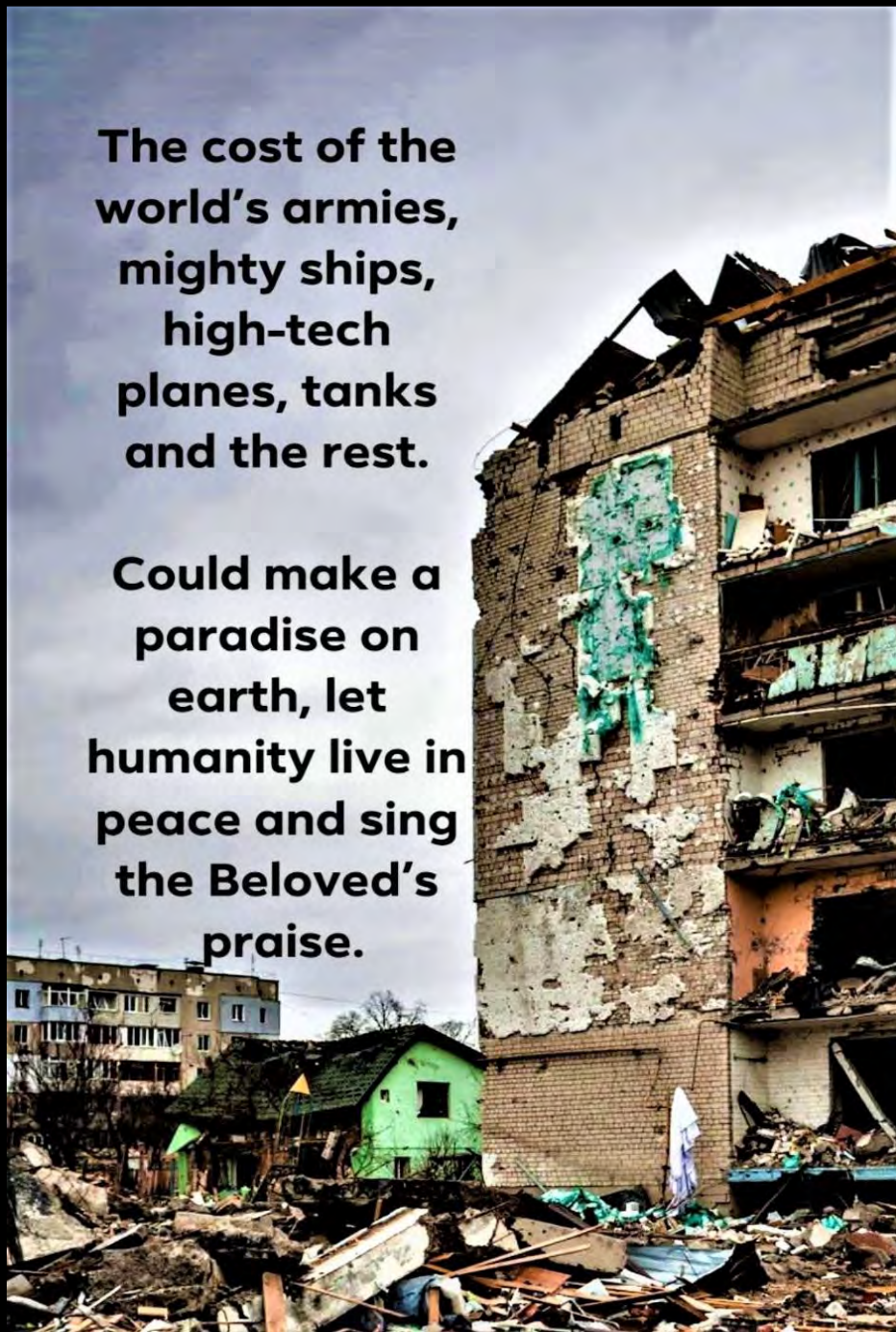
**Oh, my
Beloved, I am
not wise;
guide my
efforts a
thousandfold.**

"How lofty is the station which man, if he but choose to fulfill his high destiny." ~Bahá'u'lláh

The Cost of Wars

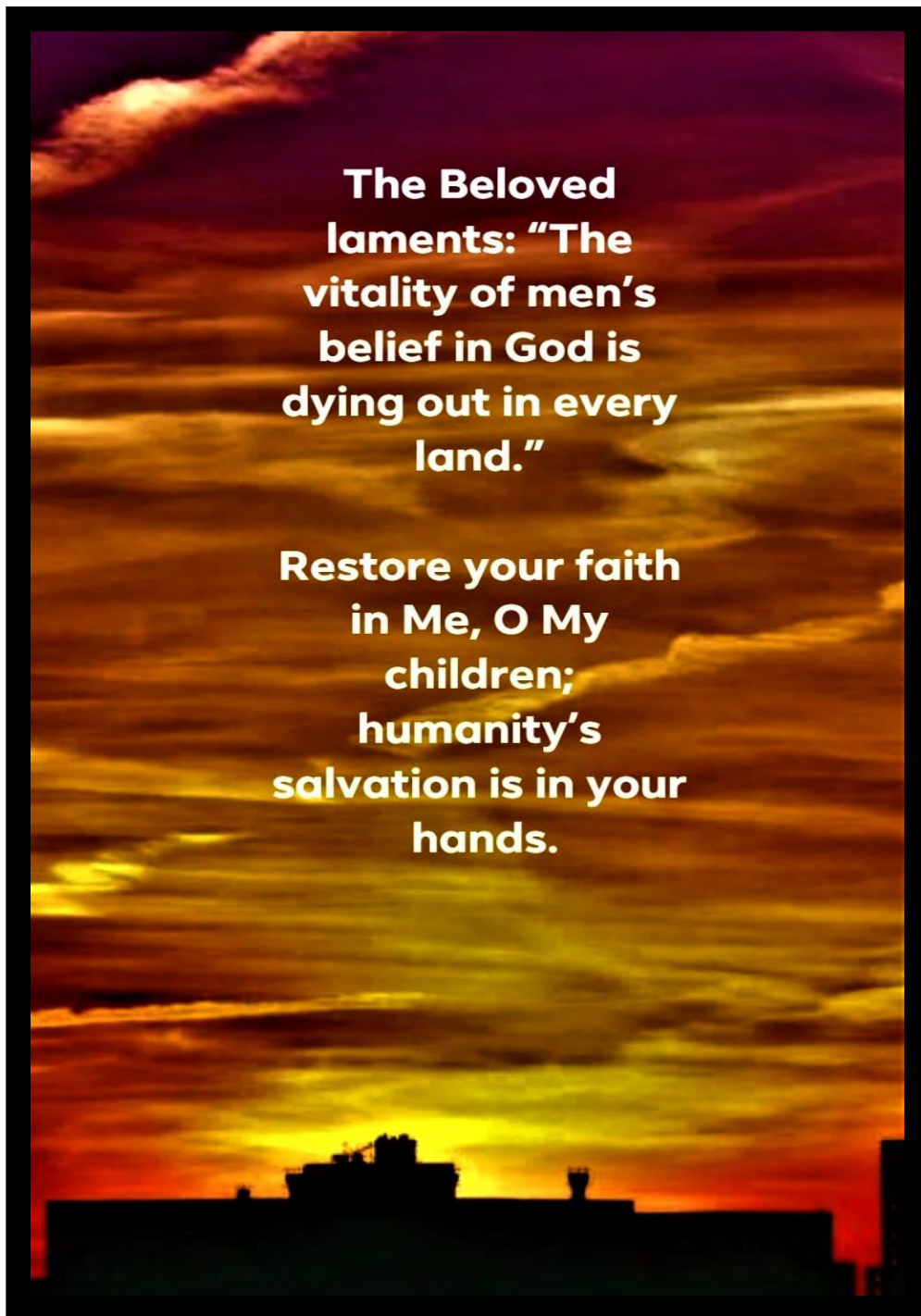
**The cost of the
world's armies,
mighty ships,
high-tech
planes, tanks
and the rest.**

**Could make a
paradise on
earth, let
humanity live in
peace and sing
the Beloved's
praise.**



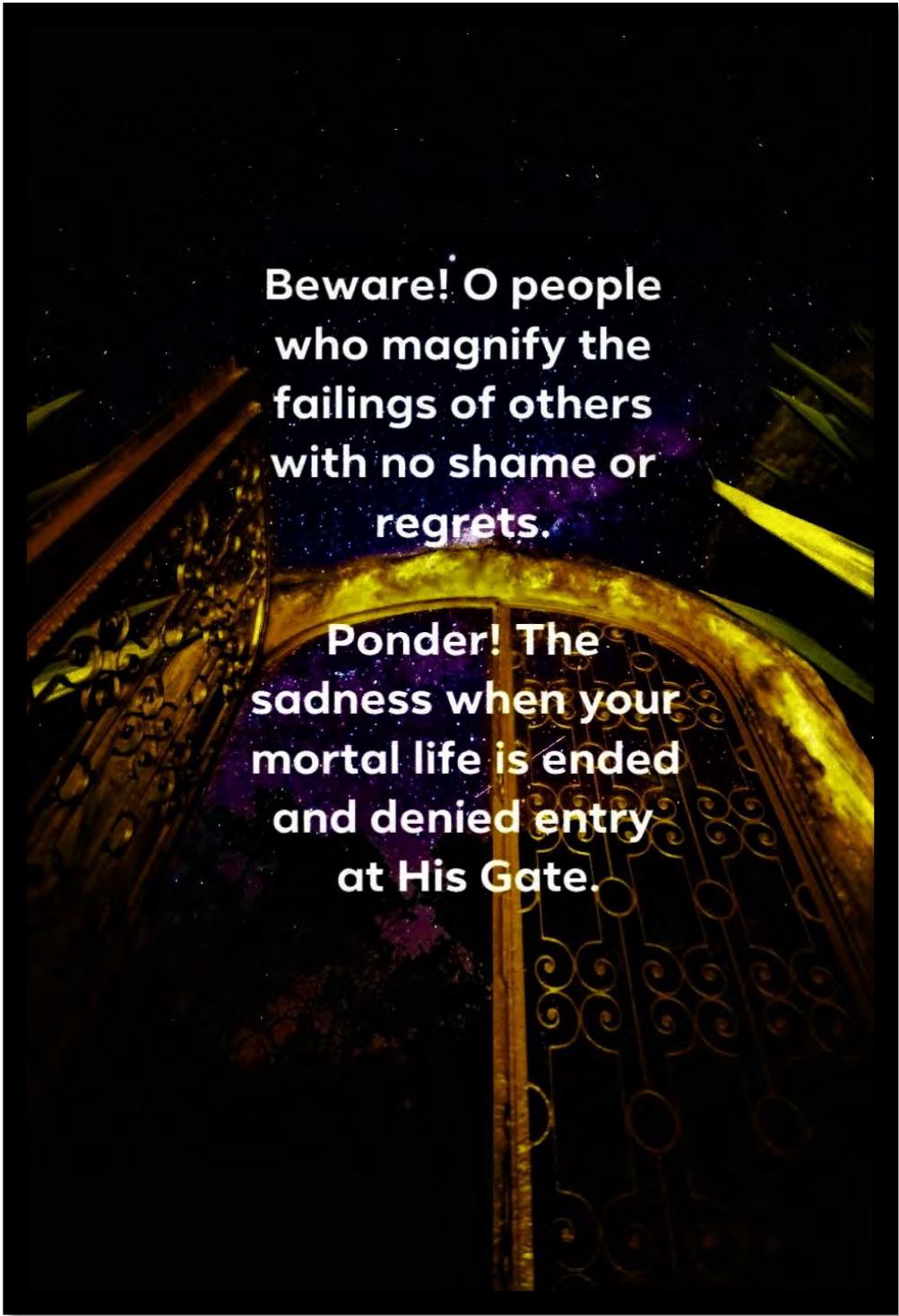
“O Lord! Draw up the people from the abyss of the ocean of hatred and enmity, and deliver them from this impenetrable darkness.”~‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Restore My Faith



"The vitality of men's belief in God is dying out in every land; nothing short of His wholesome medicine can ever restore it." ~Baha'u'llah

At His Gate



**Beware! O people
who magnify the
failings of others
with no shame or
regrets.**

**Ponder! The
sadness when your
mortal life is ended
and denied entry
at His Gate.**

"Many are called, but few are chosen." ~Matthew 22:14

Doomsayers

You complain like
doomsayers, shout,
"humanity is dead," and
wish it to rise again and
shine.

Change your ways, show
by example, practice
humanity, and let all see
when its glory shines.

I see humans
but no
HUMANITY X



"Be the change that you wish to see in the world." ~Gandhi

True Friend

**How can I describe
the joy of finding a
rare diamond in this
world of mud and
stones?**

**Your friendship is
that radiating
diamond; how can I
express this to you
in mere words?**

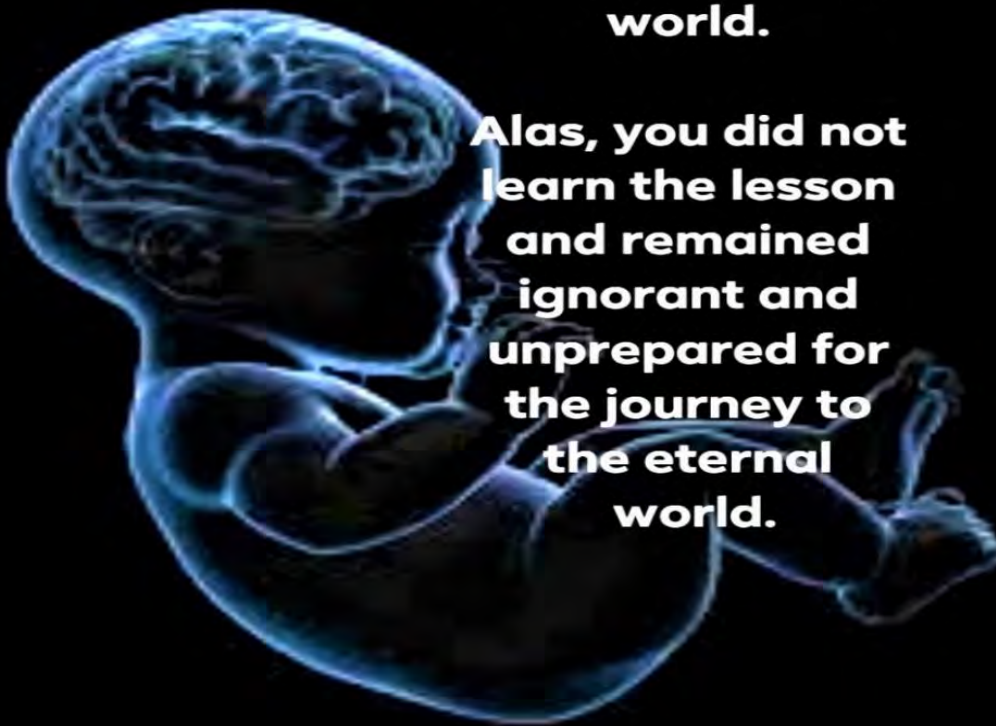


*"When I am with you, we stay up all night.
When you're not here, I can't go to sleep.
Praise God for those two insomnias!
And the difference between them." ~Rumi*

The Dark Womb

**In the darkness
of the mother's
womb, you did
not grasp the
Beloved's
promise of the
bright coming
world.**

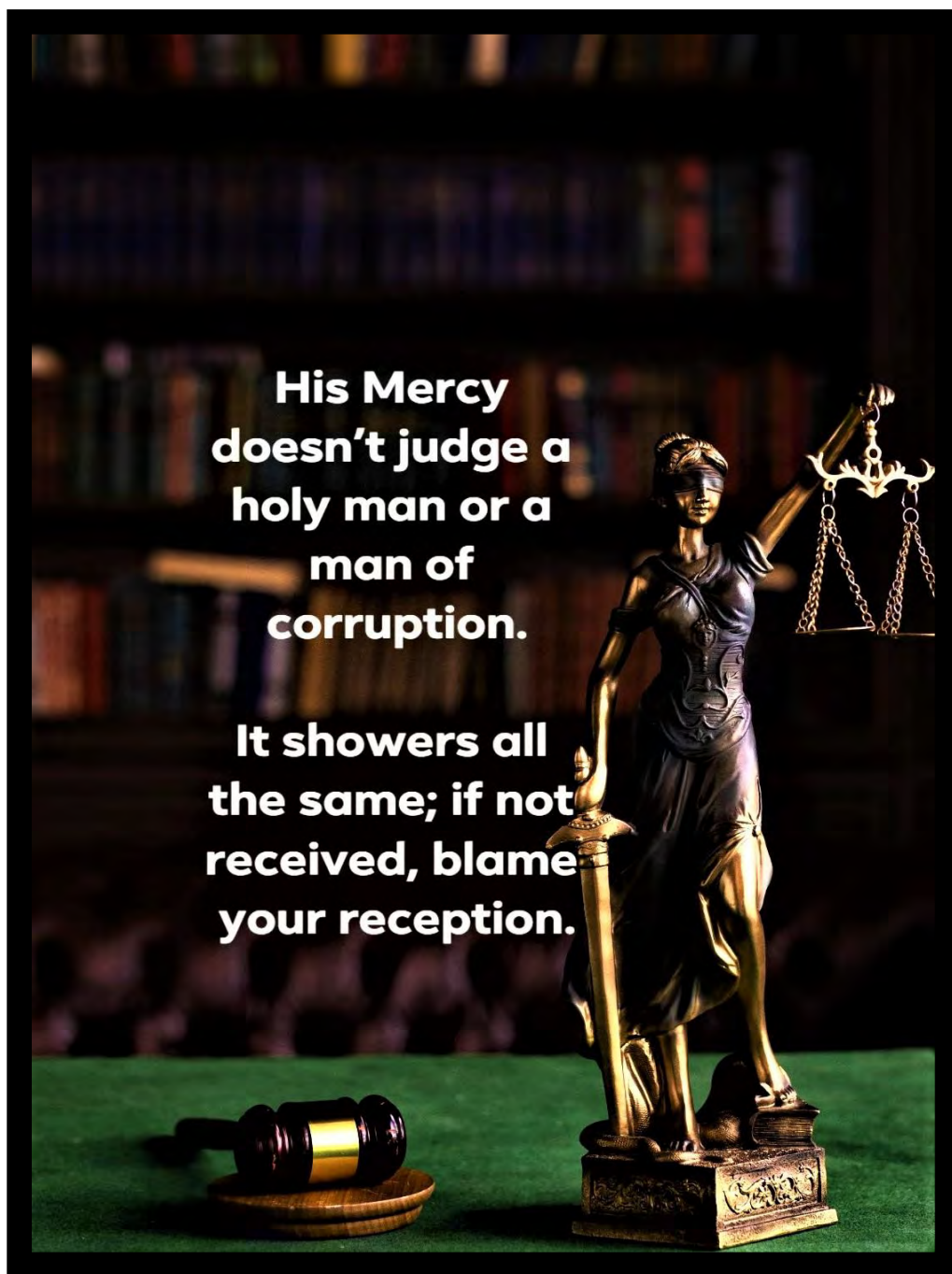
**Alas, you did not
learn the lesson
and remained
ignorant and
unprepared for
the journey to
the eternal
world.**



*"The world beyond is as different from this world as this world is
different from that of the child while still in the womb of its mother."*

~Bahá'u'lláh

Showers of Mercy

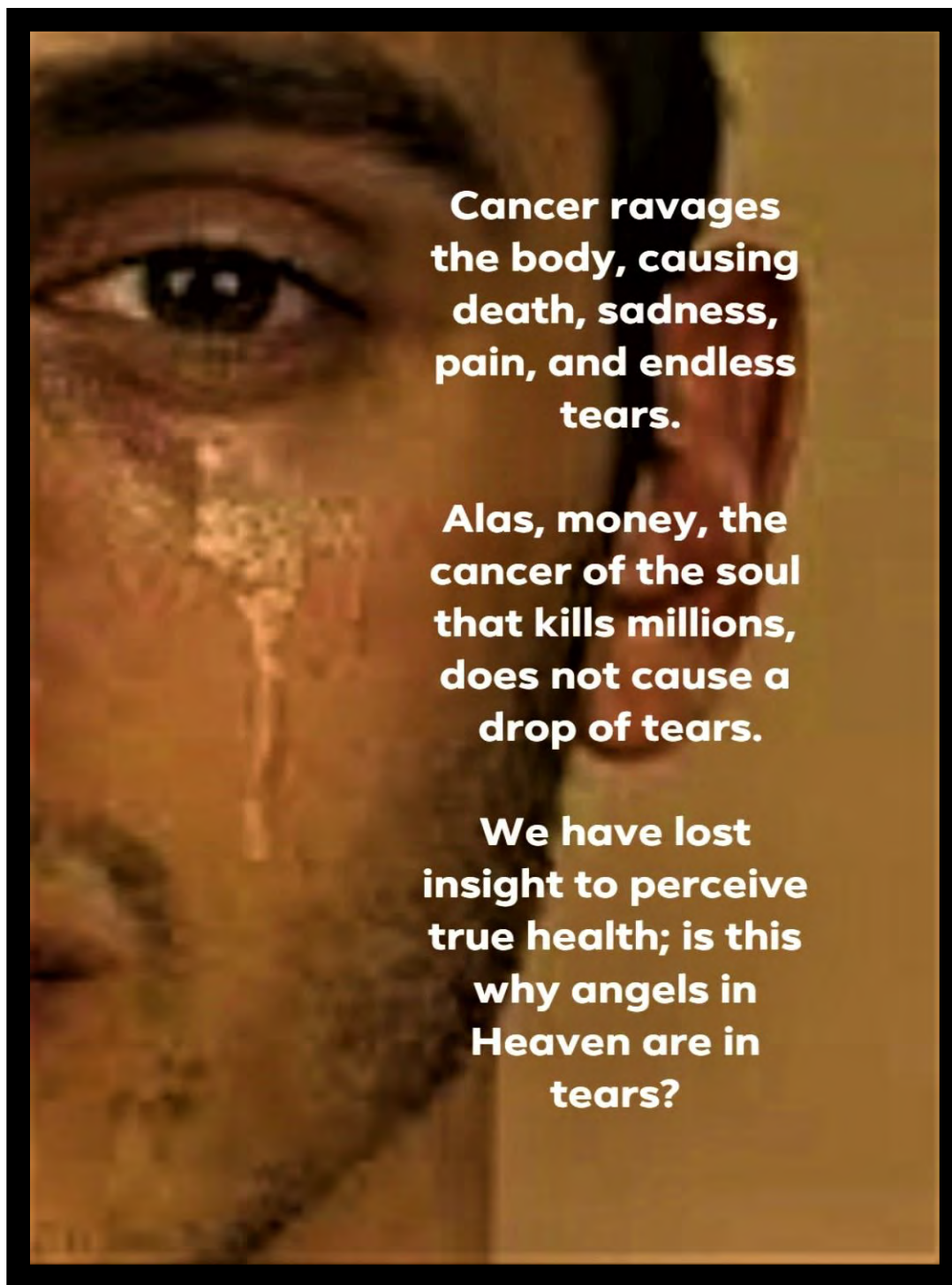


**His Mercy
doesn't judge a
holy man or a
man of
corruption.**

**It showers all
the same; if not
received, blame
your reception.**

"A drop out of the ocean of Thy mercy sufficeth to quench the flames of hell, and a spark of the fire of Thy love is enough to set ablaze a whole world." ~Bahá'u'lláh

Heaven's Tears



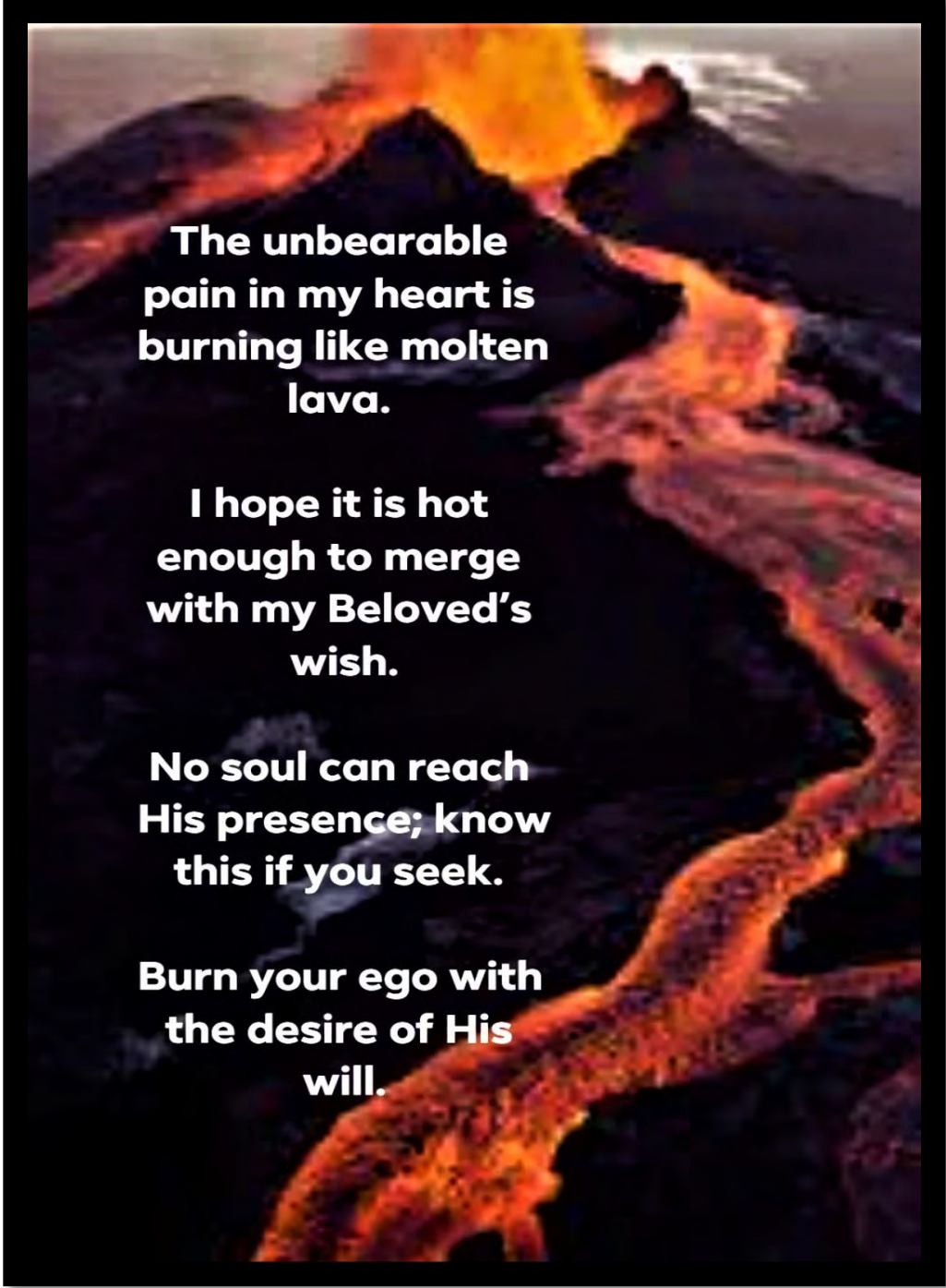
**Cancer ravages
the body, causing
death, sadness,
pain, and endless
tears.**

**Alas, money, the
cancer of the soul
that kills millions,
does not cause a
drop of tears.**

**We have lost
insight to perceive
true health; is this
why angels in
Heaven are in
tears?**

"O Son of Being! Busy not thyself with this world, for with fire We test the gold and with gold We test Our servants." ~Bahá'u'lláh

Molten Lava



**The unbearable
pain in my heart is
burning like molten
lava.**

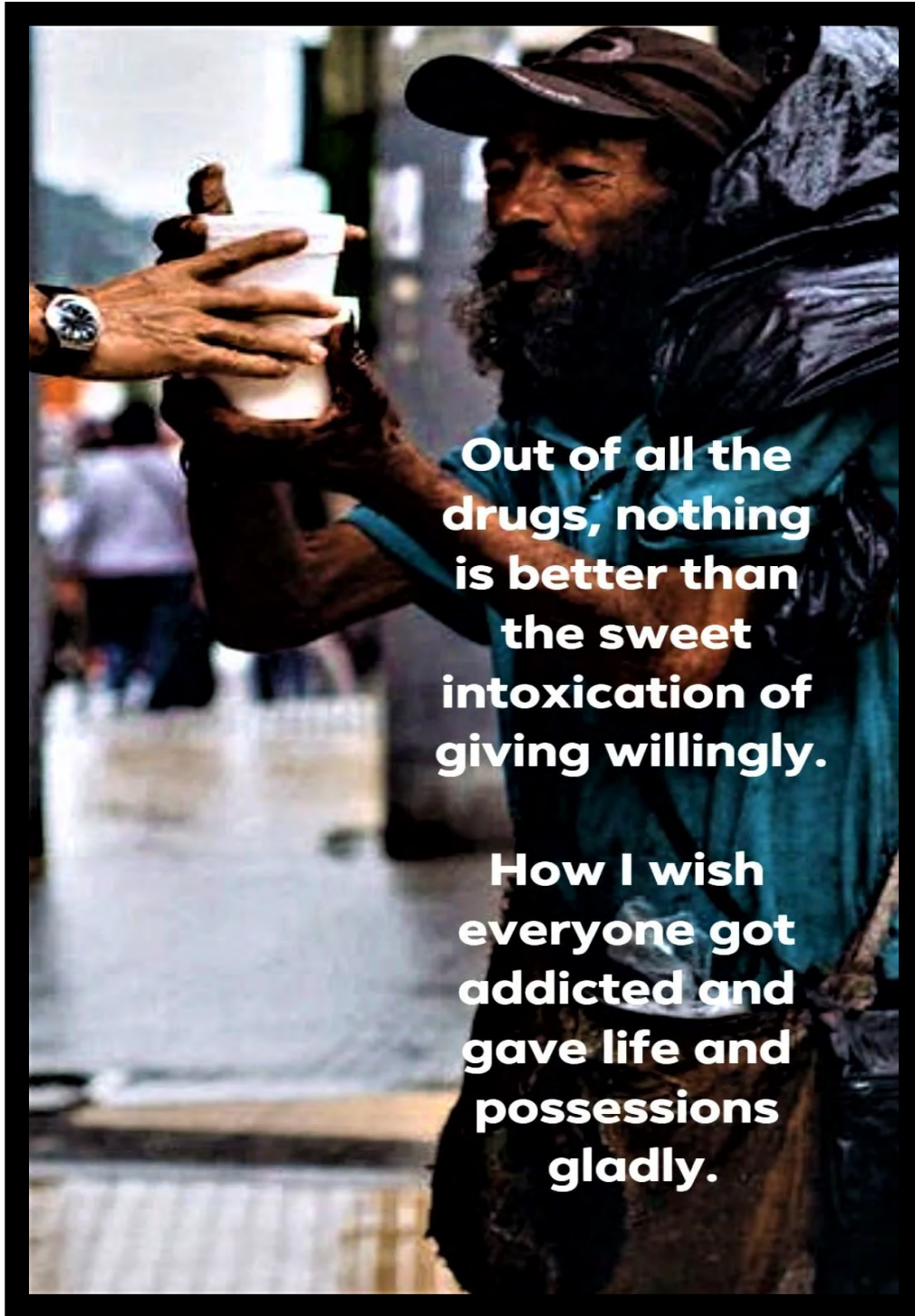
**I hope it is hot
enough to merge
with my Beloved's
wish.**

**No soul can reach
His presence; know
this if you seek.**

**Burn your ego with
the desire of His
will.**

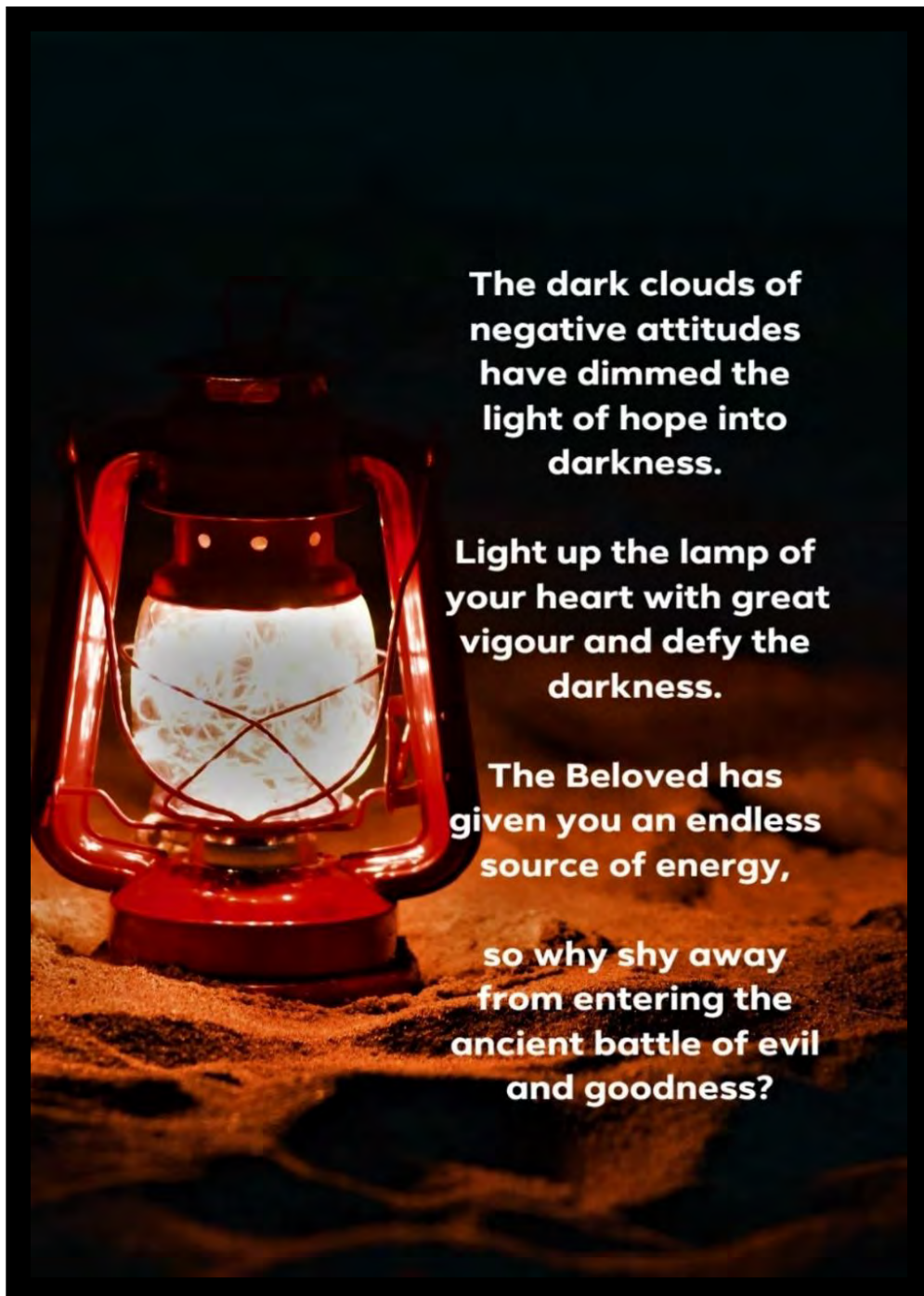
"Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it." ~Rumi

Addiction to Giving



"Doing good to others is not a duty. It is a joy, for it increases your own health and happiness." ~Zoroaster

Change of Attitudes



The dark clouds of negative attitudes have dimmed the light of hope into darkness.

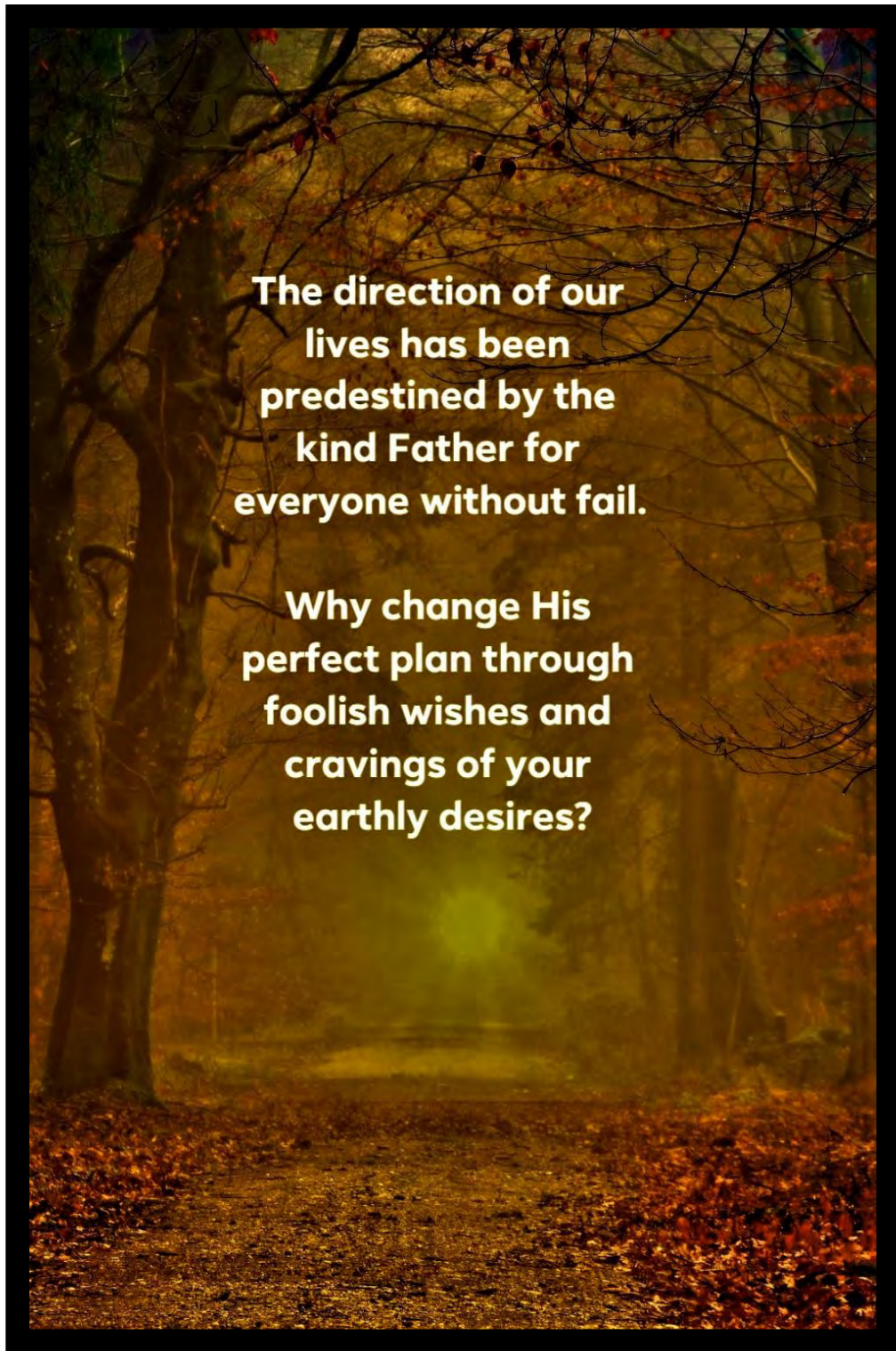
Light up the lamp of your heart with great vigour and defy the darkness.

The Beloved has given you an endless source of energy,

so why shy away from entering the ancient battle of evil and goodness?

“The world is full of evil and dark forces and the friends must not permit these forces to get hold of them by thinking and feeling negatively towards each other.” ~Shoghi Effendi

Predestined Life

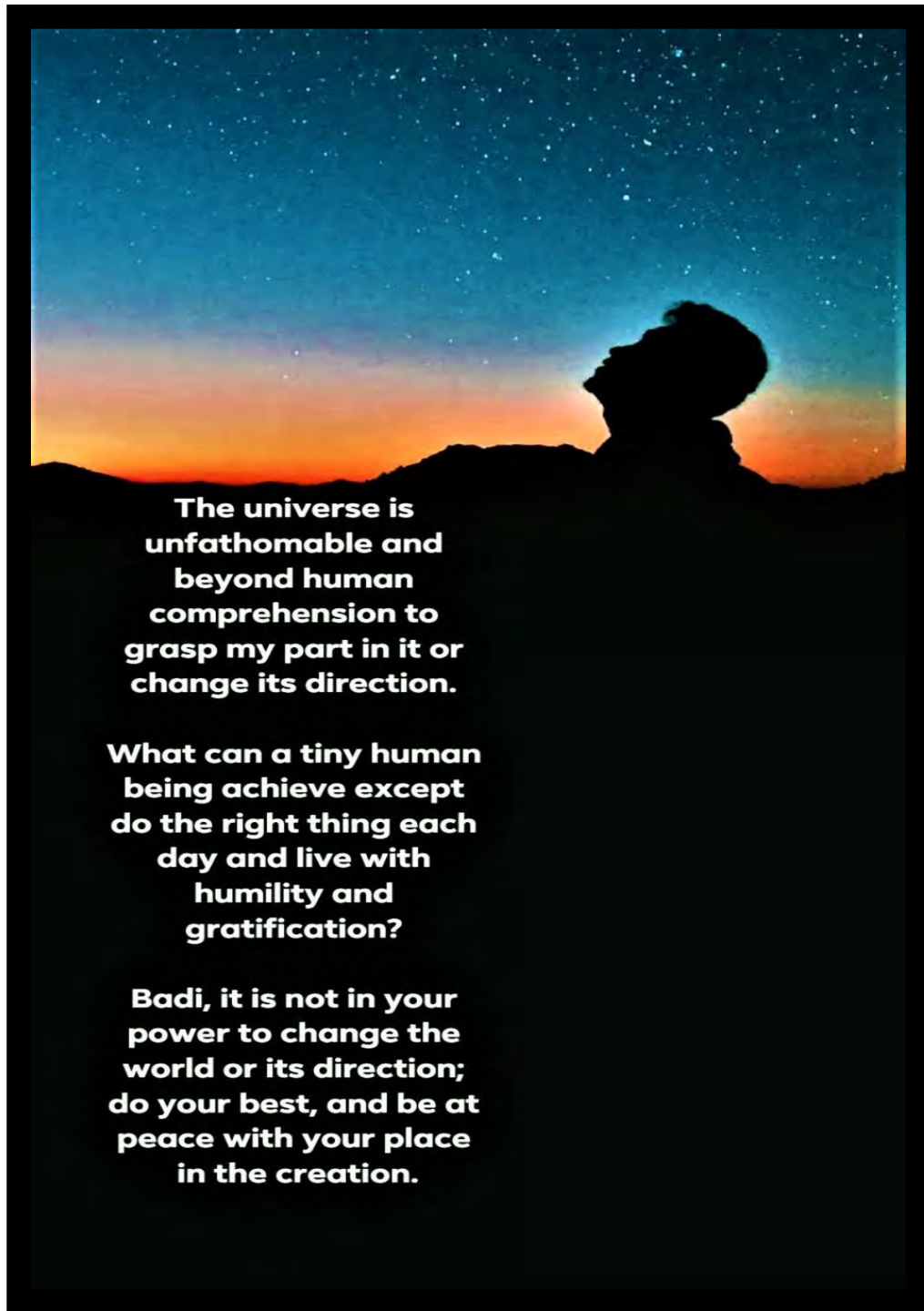


**The direction of our
lives has been
predestined by the
kind Father for
everyone without fail.**

**Why change His
perfect plan through
foolish wishes and
cravings of your
earthly desires?**

"A traveller without observation is a bird without wings."~Saadi

My Place in the Universe



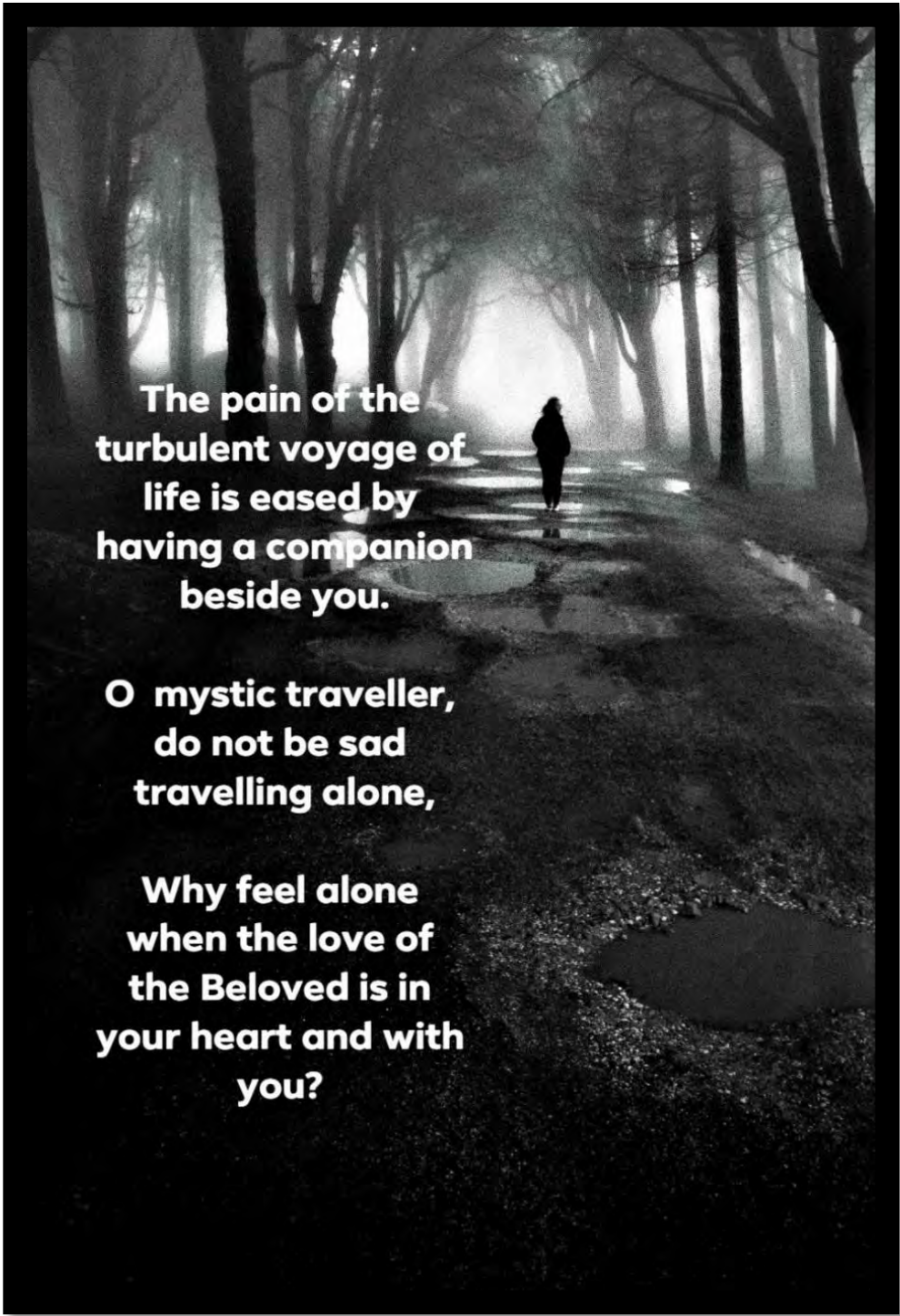
**The universe is
unfathomable and
beyond human
comprehension to
grasp my part in it or
change its direction.**

**What can a tiny human
being achieve except
do the right thing each
day and live with
humility and
gratification?**

**Badi, it is not in your
power to change the
world or its direction;
do your best, and be at
peace with your place
in the creation.**

"Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself." ~Rumi

You Are Not Alone

A black and white photograph of a person walking away on a path through a misty forest. The path is wet and reflective, with puddles. The trees are tall and thin, and the mist is thick, creating a sense of solitude and mystery. The person is a small figure in the distance, walking away from the viewer.

**The pain of the
turbulent voyage of
life is eased by
having a companion
beside you.**

**O mystic traveller,
do not be sad
travelling alone,**

**Why feel alone
when the love of
the Beloved is in
your heart and with
you?**

“Lovers don’t finally meet somewhere. They’re in each other all along.”

~Rumi

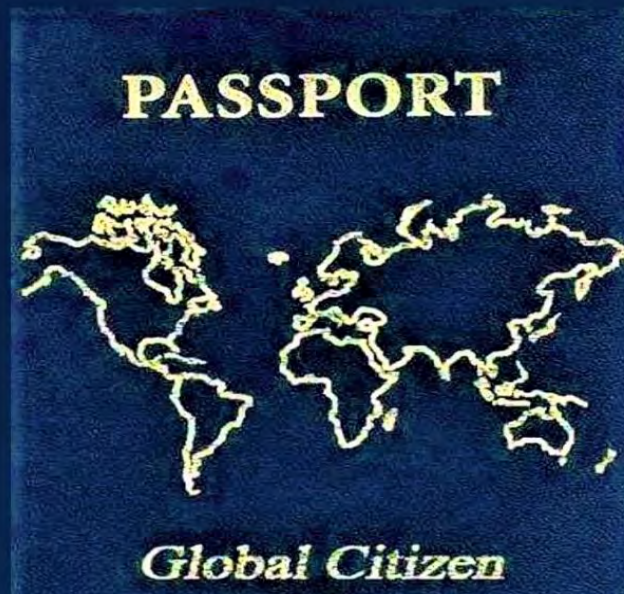
Global Citizen

**Tired of the limitations
and troubles at the
borders of every nation.**

**I want to move freely
and visit my family
without restriction.**

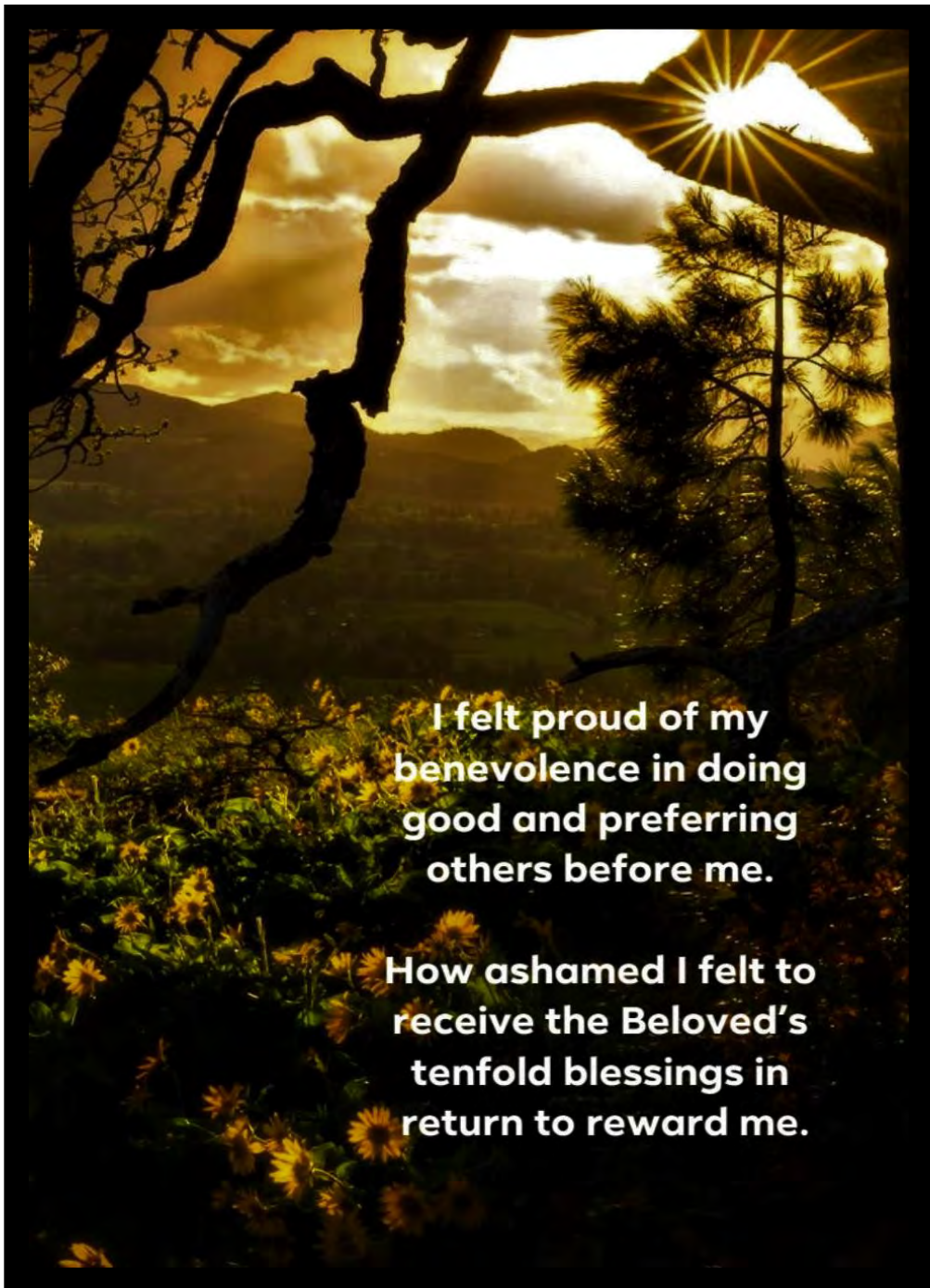
**I am a world citizen in
my heart, and Earth is
my home.**

**How can I visit my
friends and family and
rebuild our global
home?**



“This span of earth is but one homeland and one habitation. It behooveth you to abandon vainglory which causeth alienation and to set your hearts on whatever will ensure harmony.” ~Bahá’u’lláh

Rewards

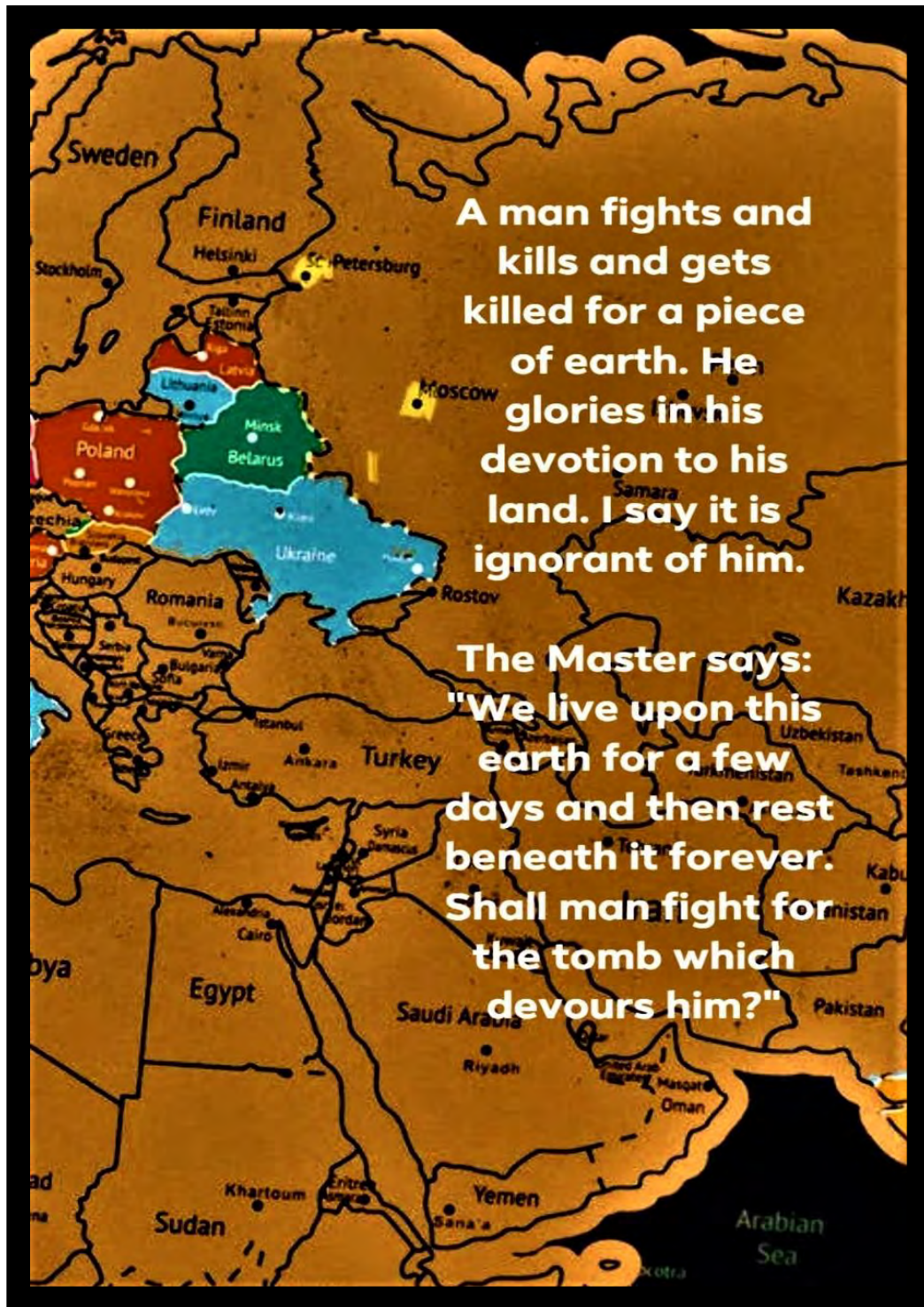


I felt proud of my
benevolence in doing
good and preferring
others before me.

How ashamed I felt to
receive the Beloved's
tenfold blessings in
return to reward me.

"We must be like the fountain or spring that is continually emptying itself of all that it has and is continually being refilled from an invisible source." ~Shoghi Effendi

Nationalism



A man fights and kills and gets killed for a piece of earth. He glories in his devotion to his land. I say it is ignorant of him.

The Master says: "We live upon this earth for a few days and then rest beneath it forever. Shall man fight for the tomb which devours him?"

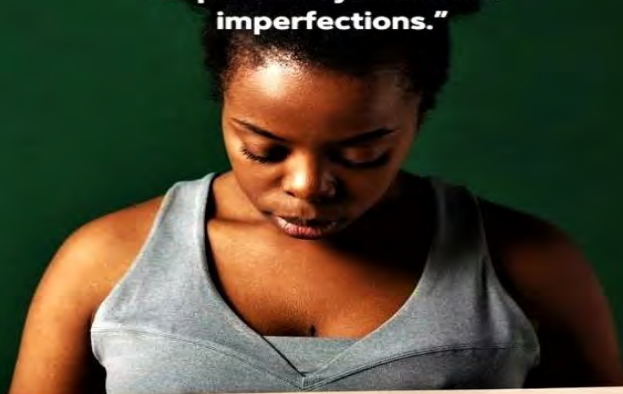
"Every one can live in any spot on the terrestrial globe. Therefore all the world is man's birthplace..." ~Abdu'l-Bahá

Perfectly Imperfect

You cry, complain and backbite in vain about the faults of others and repeat this time and again without a lesson learned.

Why the surprise and disappointment when the Master said, "You will always become unhappy if you look toward the people themselves."

See the reflection of God in every human being and not the imperfections. By Divine design, everyone has faults, but. "The imperfect eye beholds imperfections."



**PERFECTLY
IMPERFECT**

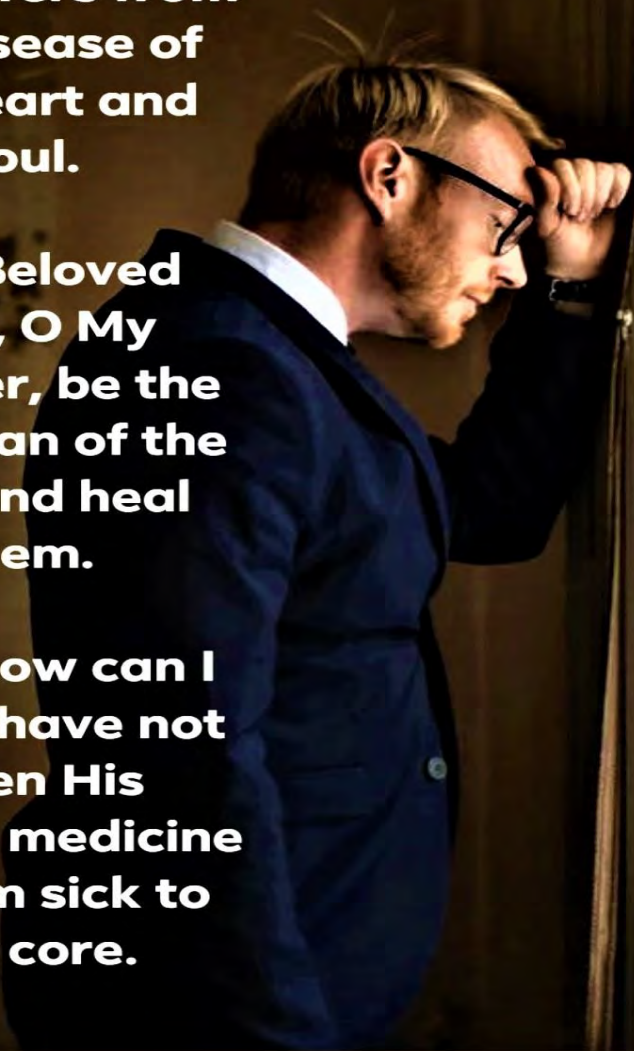
"What can the hypocrite know of others' faults when he is blind to his own?" ~'Abdu'l-Bahá

Failing to Heal

**Humanity is sick
and suffers from
the disease of
the heart and
soul.**

**The Beloved
said, O My
believer, be the
physician of the
sick and heal
them.**

**Alas, how can I
heal? I have not
taken His
healing medicine
and am sick to
my core.**



“Every divine Manifestation is the very life of the world, and the skilled physician of each ailing soul.” ~‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Winning Arguments

**The pleasure of
winning arguments is
to prove others' ideas
are inferior and
wrong.**

**What you achieve is
breaking a heart and a
shallow and vain
victory at best.**

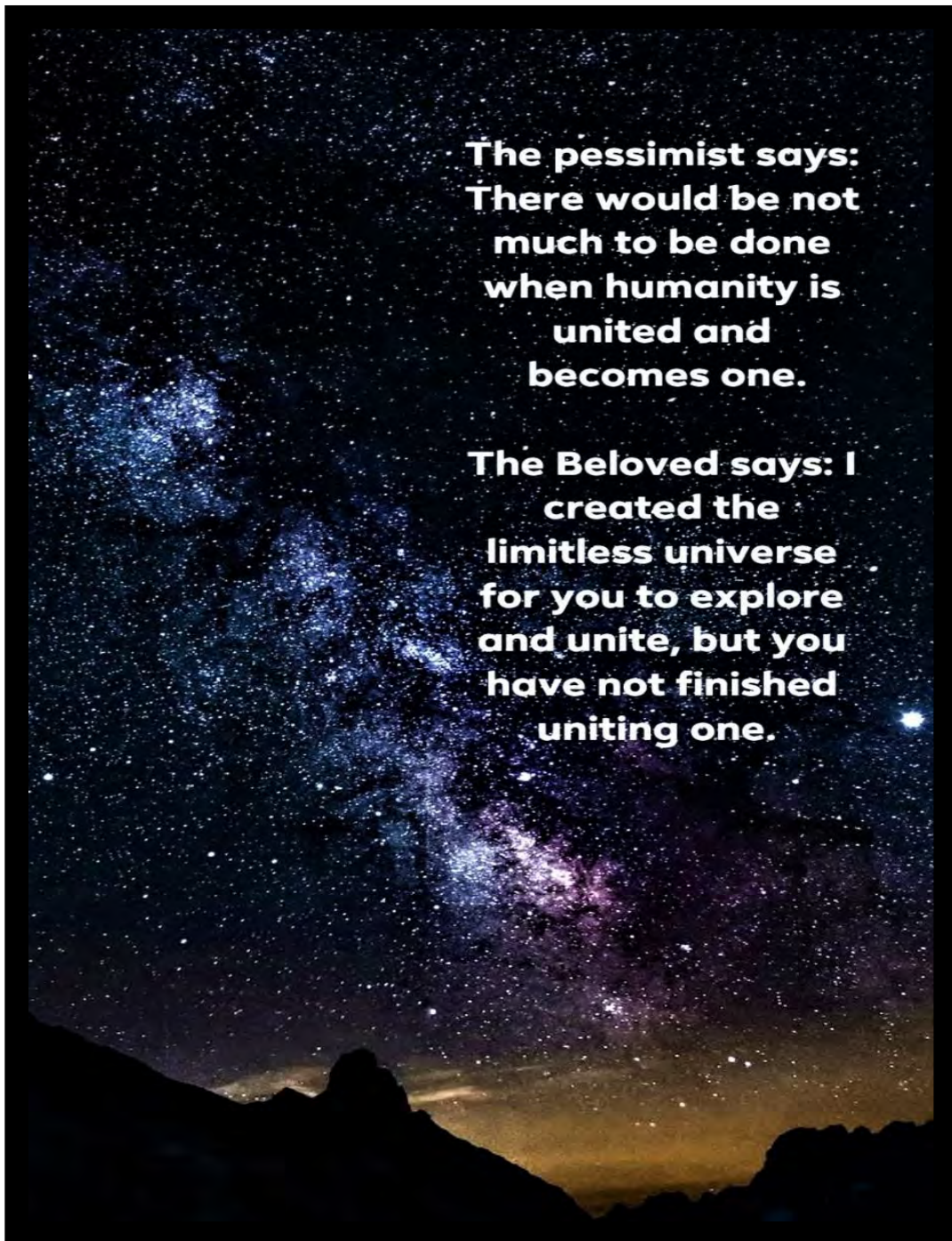
**The Beloved made us
imperfect and told us
to be kind and do no
wrong.**



"Raise your words, not voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder."

~Rumi

What Next?



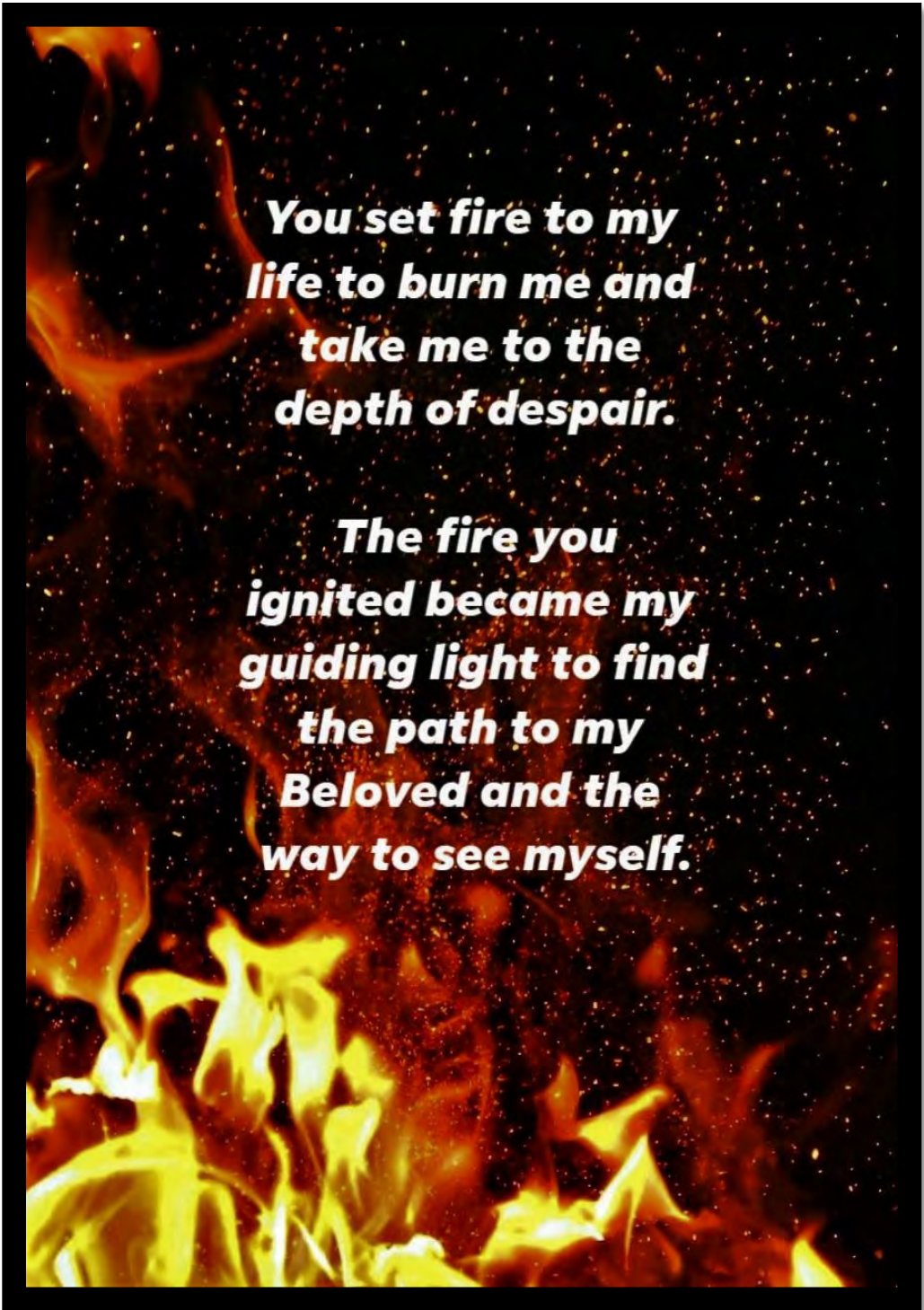
**The pessimist says:
There would be not
much to be done
when humanity is
united and
becomes one.**

**The Beloved says: I
created the
limitless universe
for you to explore
and unite, but you
have not finished
uniting one.**

*“Man should continue both these lines of research and investigation so
that all the human virtues, outer and inner, may become possible.”*

~‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Thank You, My Enemies



**You set fire to my
life to burn me and
take me to the
depth of despair.**

**The fire you
ignited became my
guiding light to find
the path to my
Beloved and the
way to see myself.**

"Grief and sorrow do not come to us by chance, they are sent to us by the Divine Mercy for our own perfecting." ~Abdu'l-Bahá

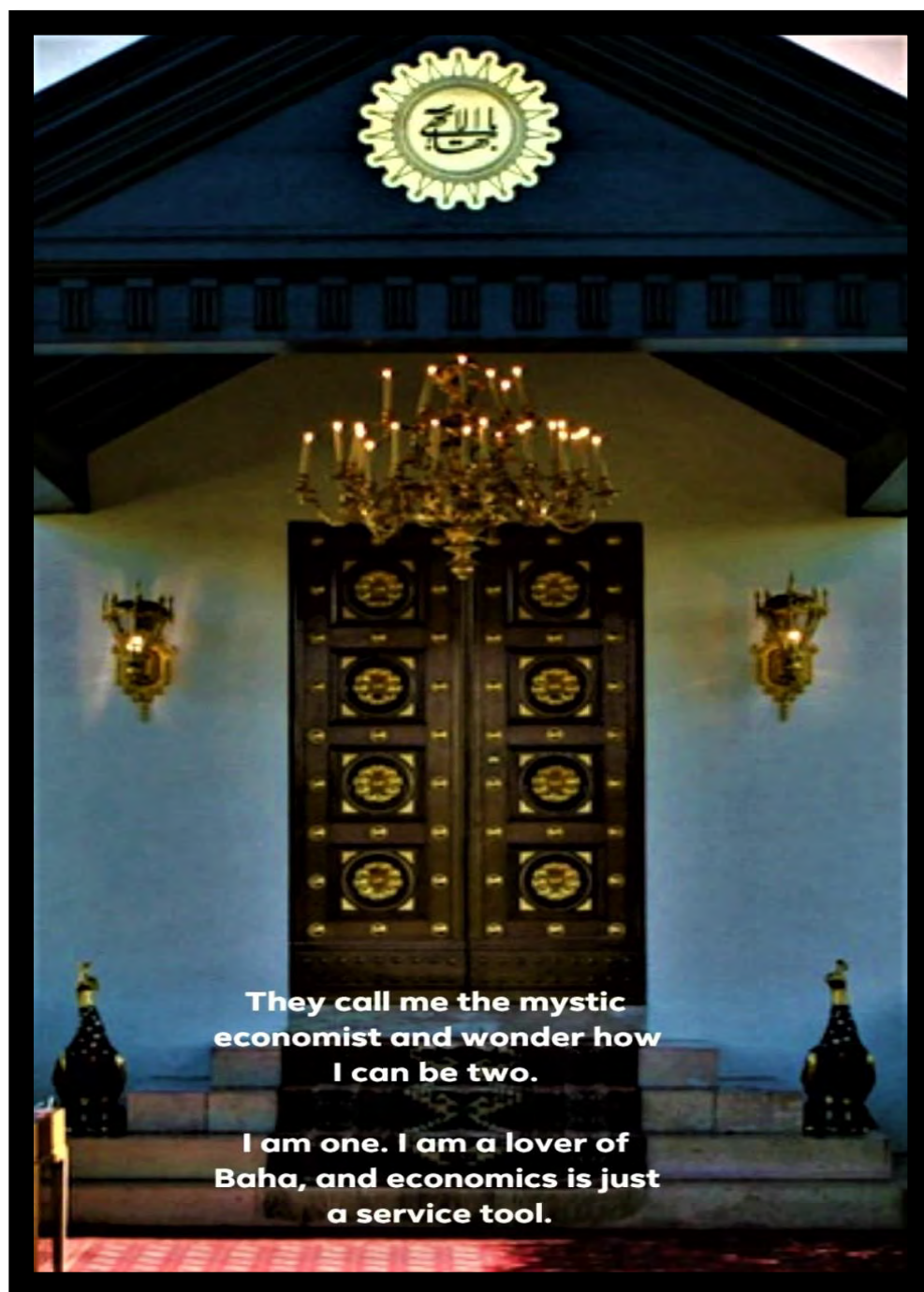
The Tender Weed

**How joyous I would
feel to reach the
high plane of
certitude and let go
of my will.**

**Become a tender
weed to move, to
bend in the
direction of the
winds of Your Will.**

*"If it be Thy pleasure, make me to grow as a tender herb in the meadows of Thy
grace." --Bahá'u'lláh*

I am One



*"It is indeed a good and praiseworthy thing to progress materially, but in so doing,
let us not neglect the more important spiritual progress."*

~Abdu'l-Bahá

Ignorance in Abundance

**There was a time we were
in the age of ignorance
and thought the earth
was flat.**

**Foolish it is now to think
we have reached the
height of discovery and
know all the facts.**

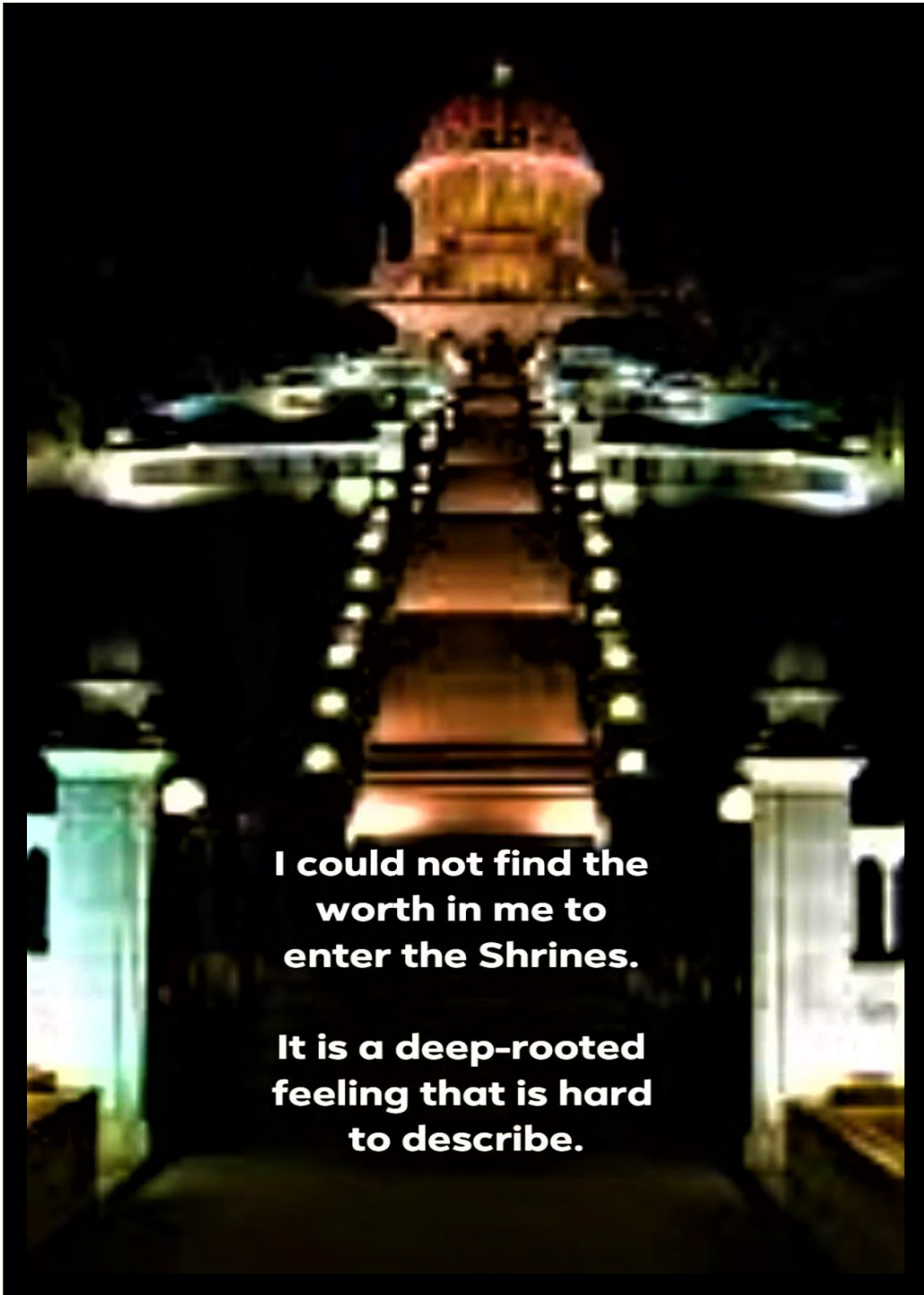
**Sadly, we have not let
history's lessons guide us
to the Beloved and
achieve greatness.**

**Yet, we act righteous and
all-knowing, filling the
world with arrogance in
abundance.**



"Ignorance is God's prison. Knowing is God's palace." ~Rumi

The Shrines

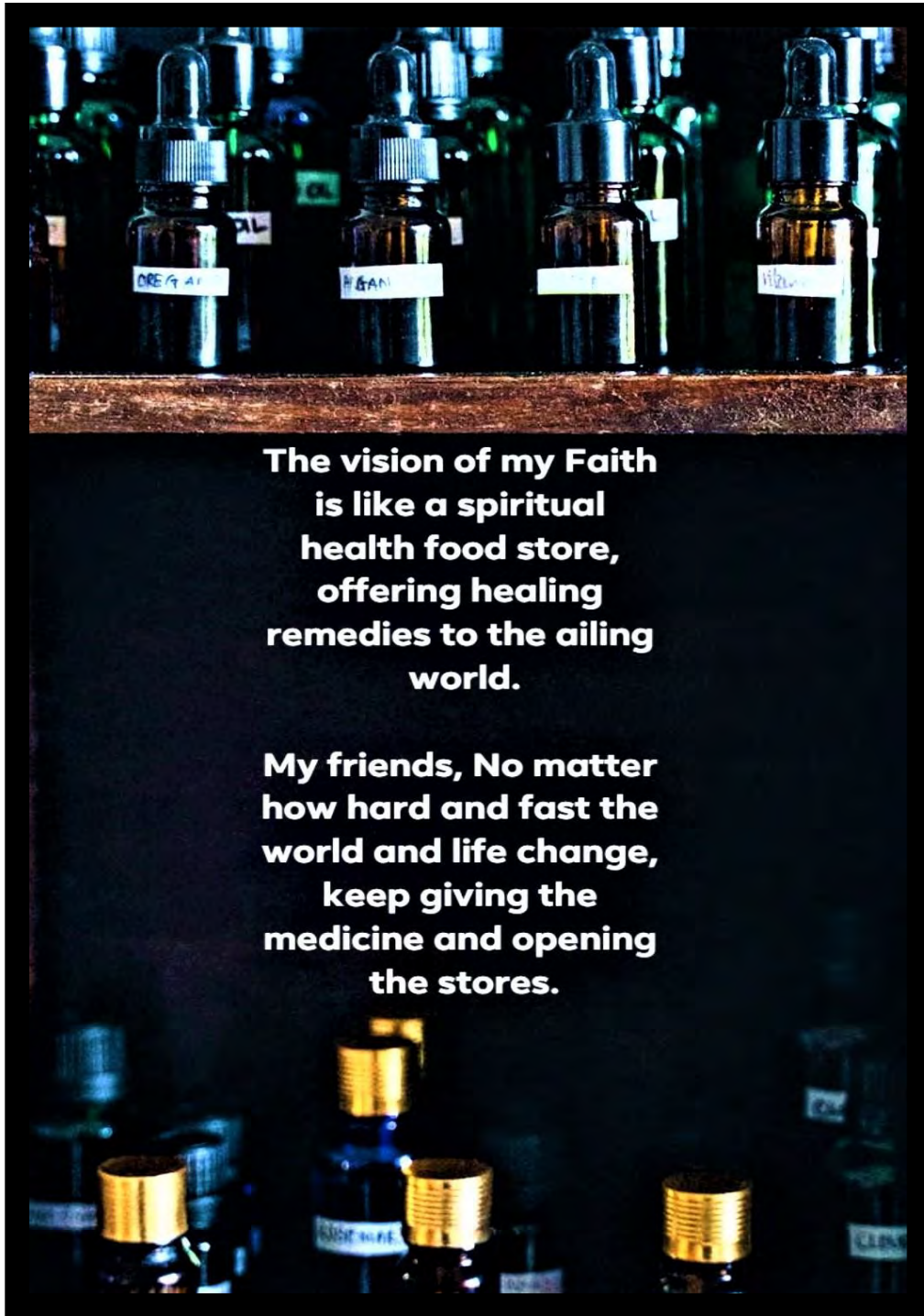


**I could not find the
worth in me to
enter the Shrines.**

**It is a deep-rooted
feeling that is hard
to describe.**

“Wherefore come forth from the sheath of self and desire that thy worth may be made resplendent and manifest unto all the world.” ~Bahá’u’lláh

Health Food Store

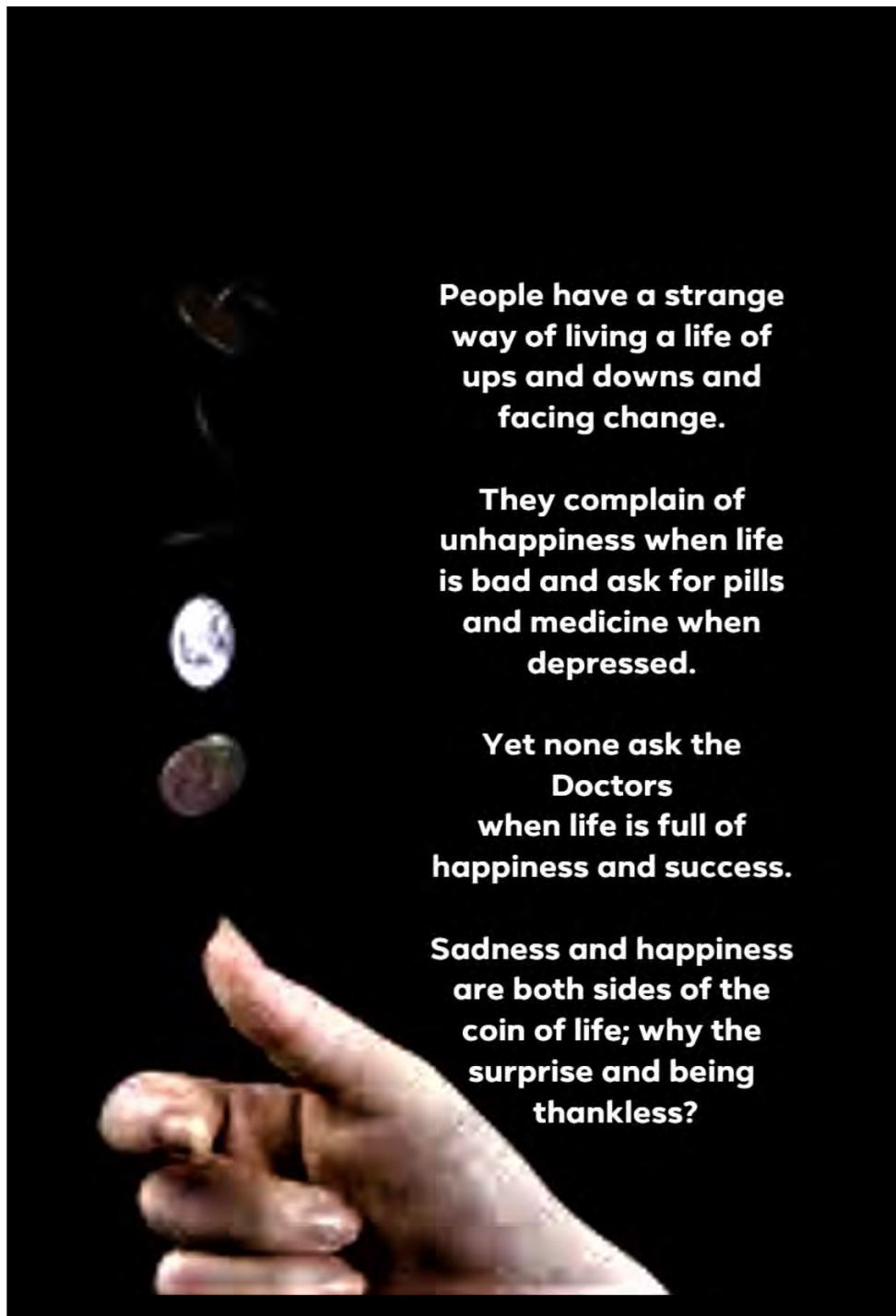


**The vision of my Faith
is like a spiritual
health food store,
offering healing
remedies to the ailing
world.**

**My friends, No matter
how hard and fast the
world and life change,
keep giving the
medicine and opening
the stores.**

"Healing begins with you. Irrespective of what the world says, you make your own little world by changing yourself." ~Rumi

The Coin of Life



**People have a strange
way of living a life of
ups and downs and
facing change.**

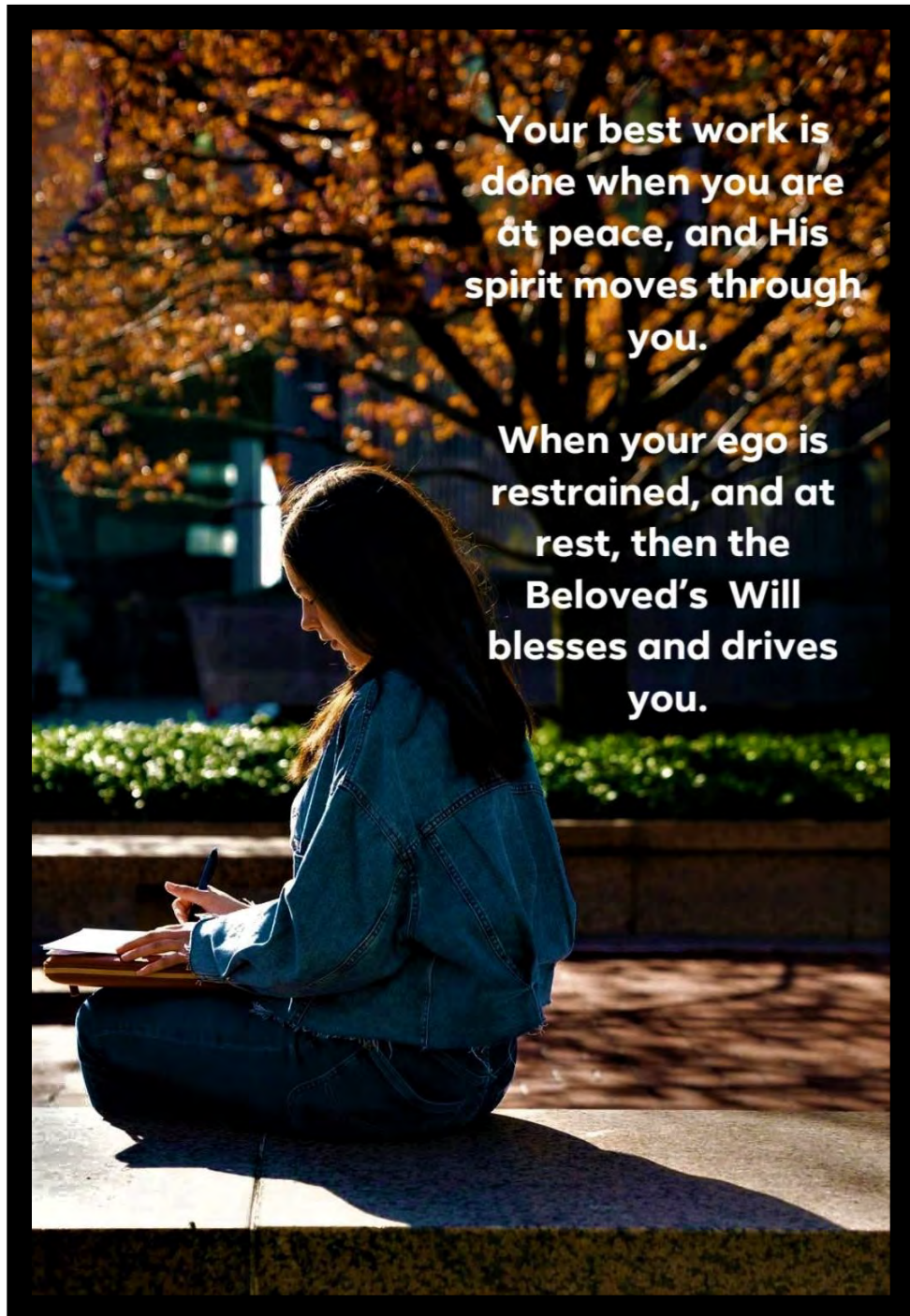
**They complain of
unhappiness when life
is bad and ask for pills
and medicine when
depressed.**

**Yet none ask the
Doctors
when life is full of
happiness and success.**

**Sadness and happiness
are both sides of the
coin of life; why the
surprise and being
thankless?**

“Some of you say, “Joy is greater than sorrow”, and others say, “Nay, sorrow is the greater.” But I say unto you, they are inseparable.” ~Khalil Gibran

The Best work



Your best work is
done when you are
at peace, and His
spirit moves through
you.

When your ego is
restrained, and at
rest, then the
Beloved's Will
blesses and drives
you.

Life is a constant struggle, not only against forces around us, but above all against our 'ego'. ~Shoghi Effendi

The Tug of War



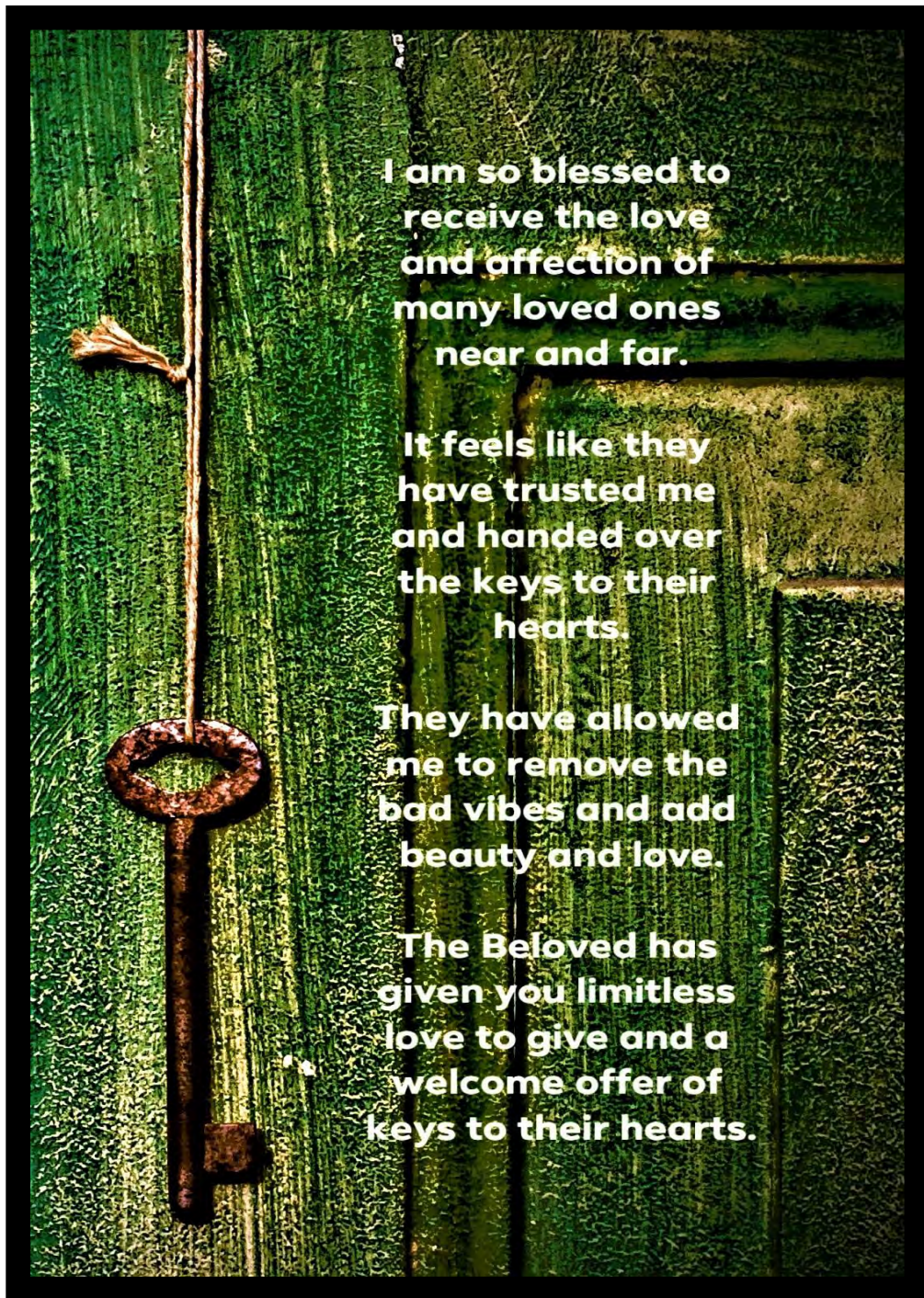
The Beloved says, "The world is but a show, vain and empty, a mere nothing, bearing the semblance of reality. Set not your affections upon it."

My soul feels and grasps this, but my ego denies it, seeking earthly pleasures and making its own version of reality.

It is the old story of the dual nature of human existence~ the constant tug-of-war of conflicting emotions and all the possibilities.

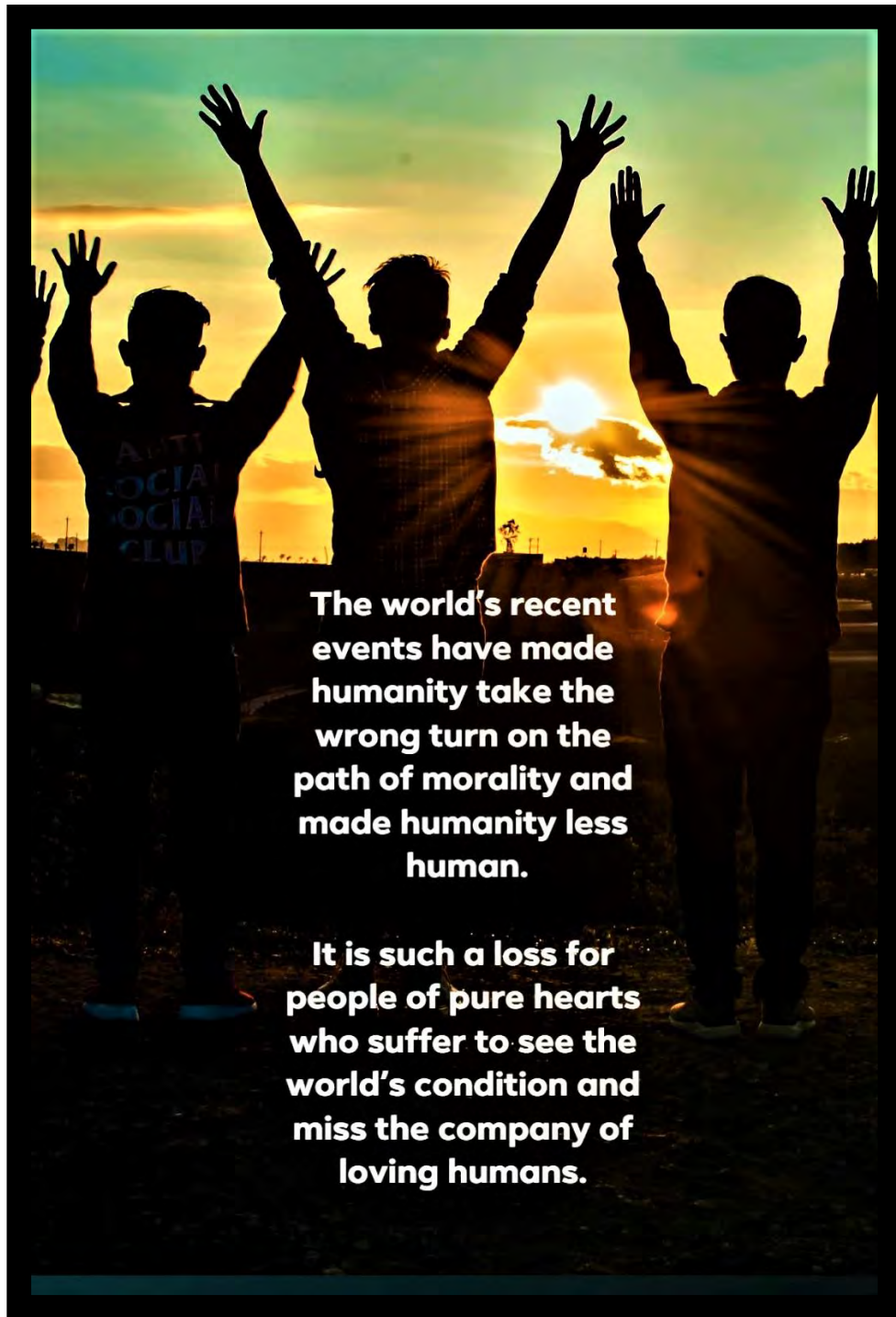
"And so it is, that both the devil and the angelic spirits present us with objects of desire to awaken our power of choice." ~Rumi

The Key



*"Success isn't the key to happiness.
Happiness is the key to success." ~Buddha*

Missing Loving Humans

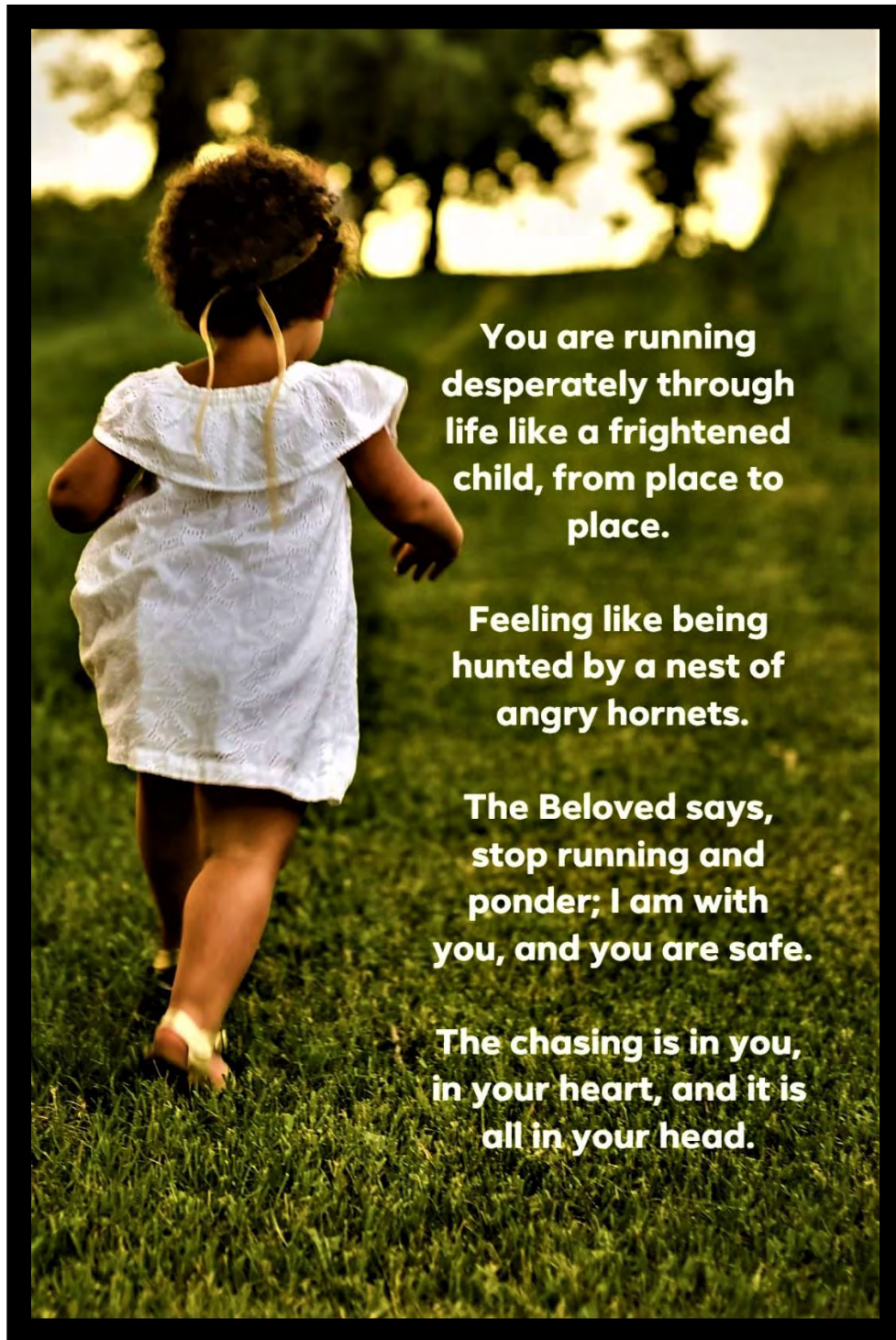


The world's recent events have made humanity take the wrong turn on the path of morality and made humanity less human.

It is such a loss for people of pure hearts who suffer to see the world's condition and miss the company of loving humans.

"Be kind to your sleeping heart. Take it out into the vast fields of light...And let it breathe." ~Hafez

Running



**You are running
desperately through
life like a frightened
child, from place to
place.**

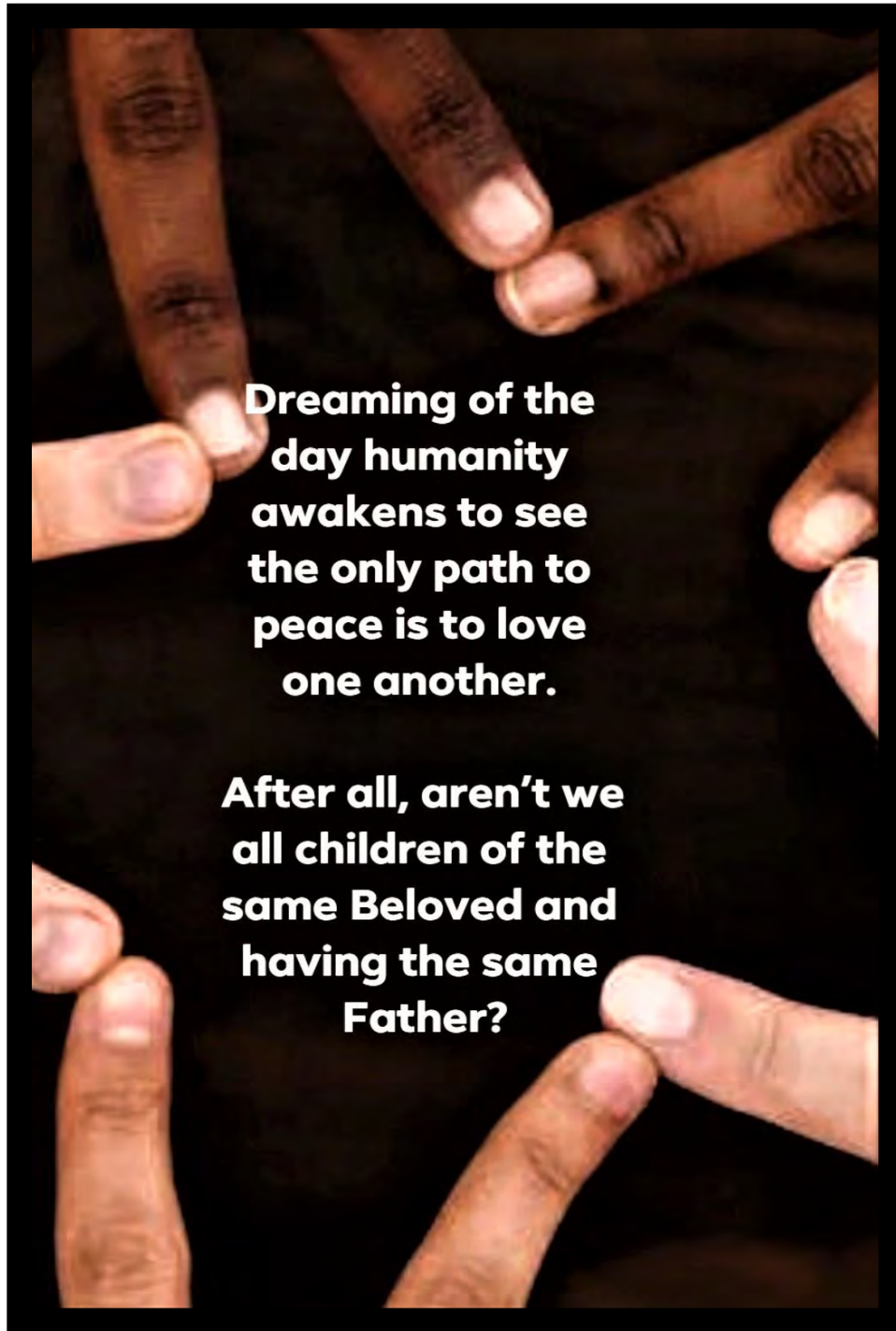
**Feeling like being
hunted by a nest of
angry hornets.**

**The Beloved says,
stop running and
ponder; I am with
you, and you are safe.**

**The chasing is in you,
in your heart, and it is
all in your head.**

*"Your legs will get heavy and tired. Then comes a moment of feeling the wings
you've grown, lifting." ~Rumi*

Awakening



**Dreaming of the
day humanity
awakens to see
the only path to
peace is to love
one another.**

**After all, aren't we
all children of the
same Beloved and
having the same
Father?**

*"Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch."
~Bahá'u'lláh*

True Religion



**People of faith
have lost sight of
real religion,
divided into a
thousand
branches, hating
and fighting in the
name of their
Faith.**

**The Beloved is in
tears to see how
sad and wayward
we are and
ignoring His
words, "There is
one religion and
humanity is its
name."**

"Religion must be the cause of affection. It must be a joy-bringer. If it become the cause of difference, it were better to banish it." ~Abdu'l-Baha

The Inner Sight

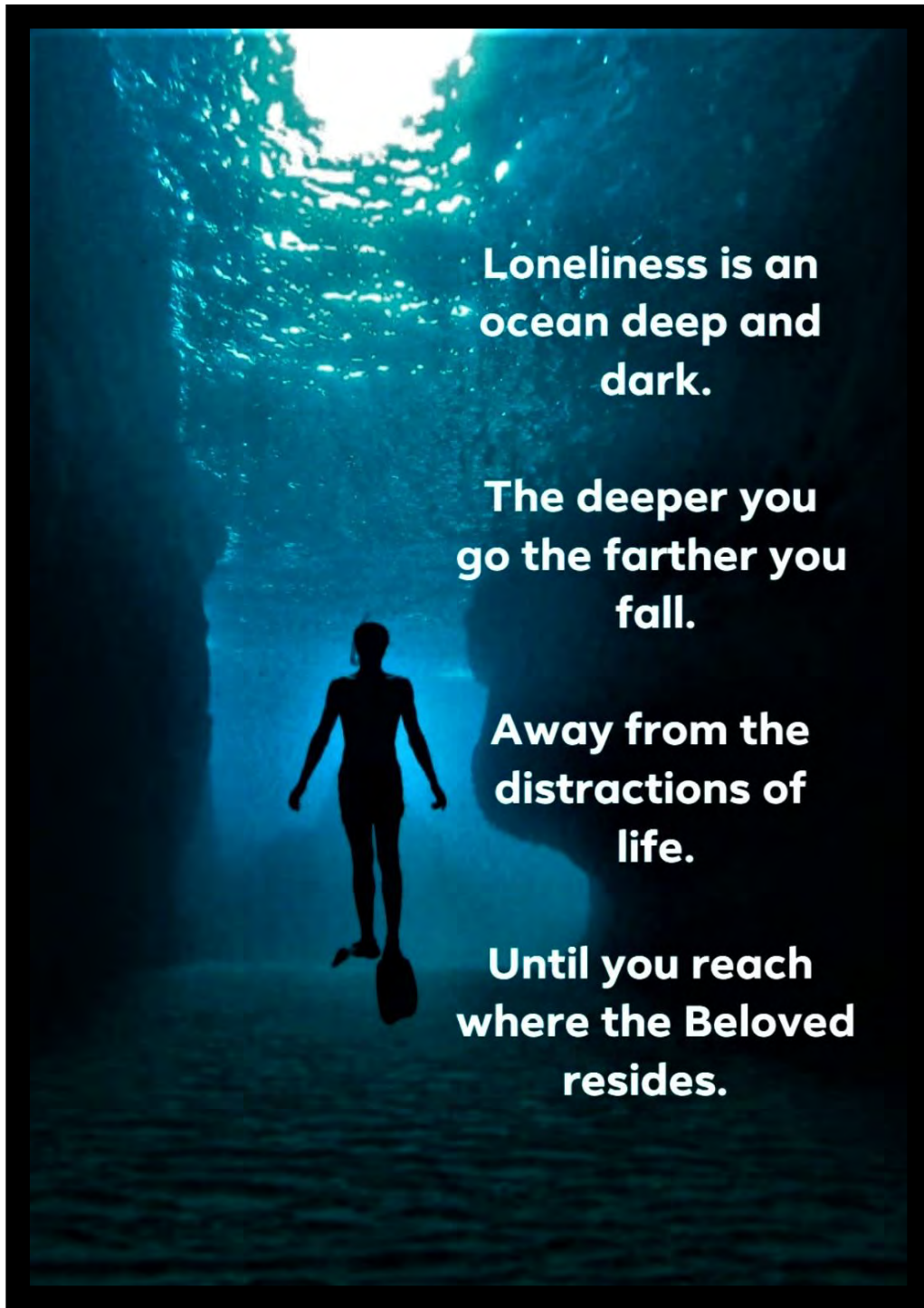
Years ago, in the
prime of my youth,
by a sad accident,
I lost sight in one
eye.

It was my
Beloved's precious
gift since it opened
wide my inner eye.

Not all sad events
are bad for our
souls; they can
lead us to gain
true sight.

*"Close one eye and open the other. Close one to the world and all that is therein,
and open the other to the hallowed beauty of the Beloved." ~Bahá'u'lláh*

Loneliness



*"You've been walking the ocean's edge, holding up your robes to keep them dry.
You must dive naked under, and deeper under, a thousand times deeper."~Rumi*

Fleeting Moment

**When you are young,
you feel invincible
and on top of the
world.**

**It takes no time for
Mother Time to
teach you a lesson
without saying a
word.**

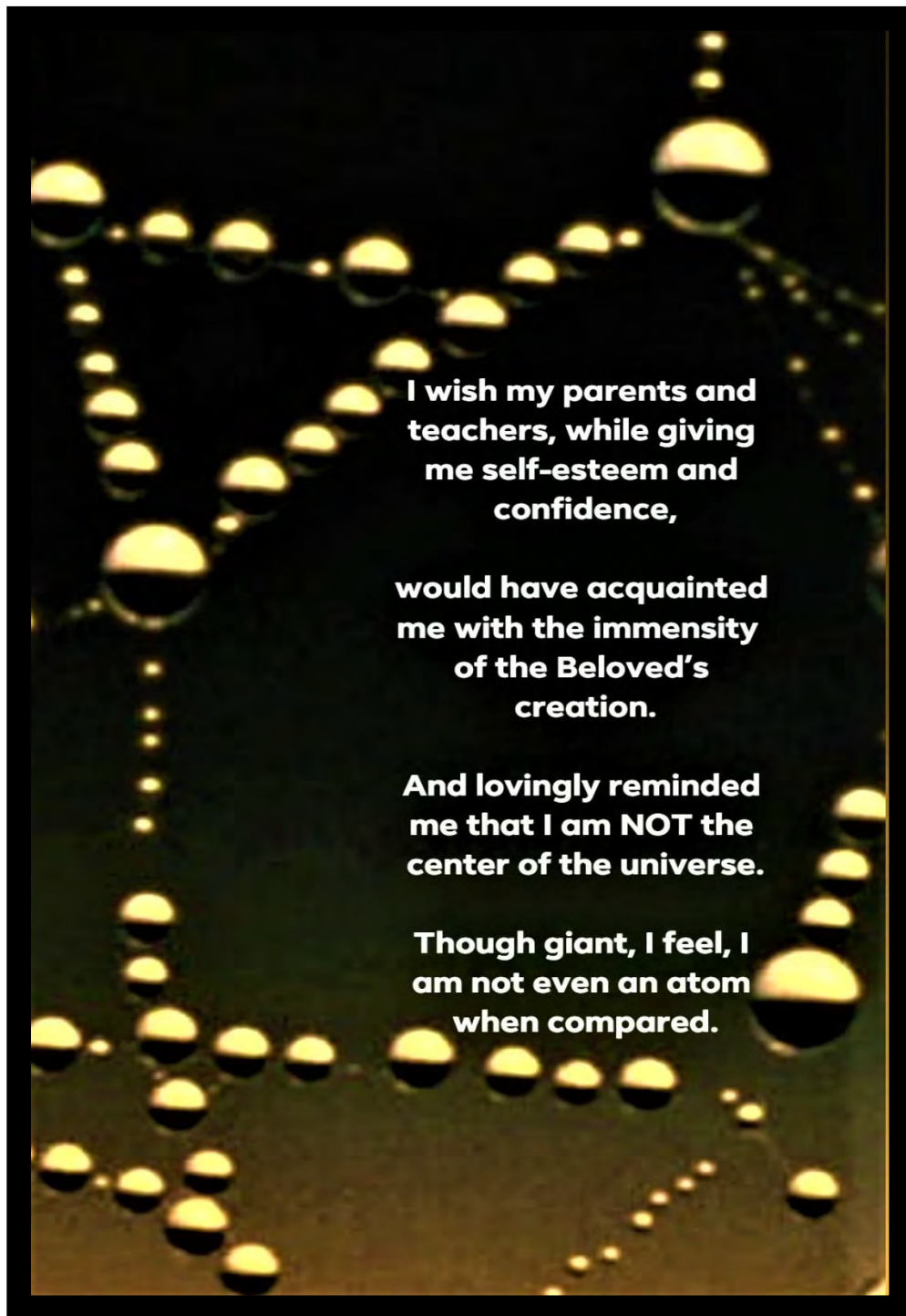
**Listen to the
Beloved, my friend, if
you wish to live a
happy and peaceful
life.**

**Your life span is "less
than a fleeting
moment," so be
loving and kind
before leaving this
world.**



"Live then the days of thy life, that are less than a fleeting moment." ~Baha'u'llah

Center of the Universe



**I wish my parents and
teachers, while giving
me self-esteem and
confidence,**

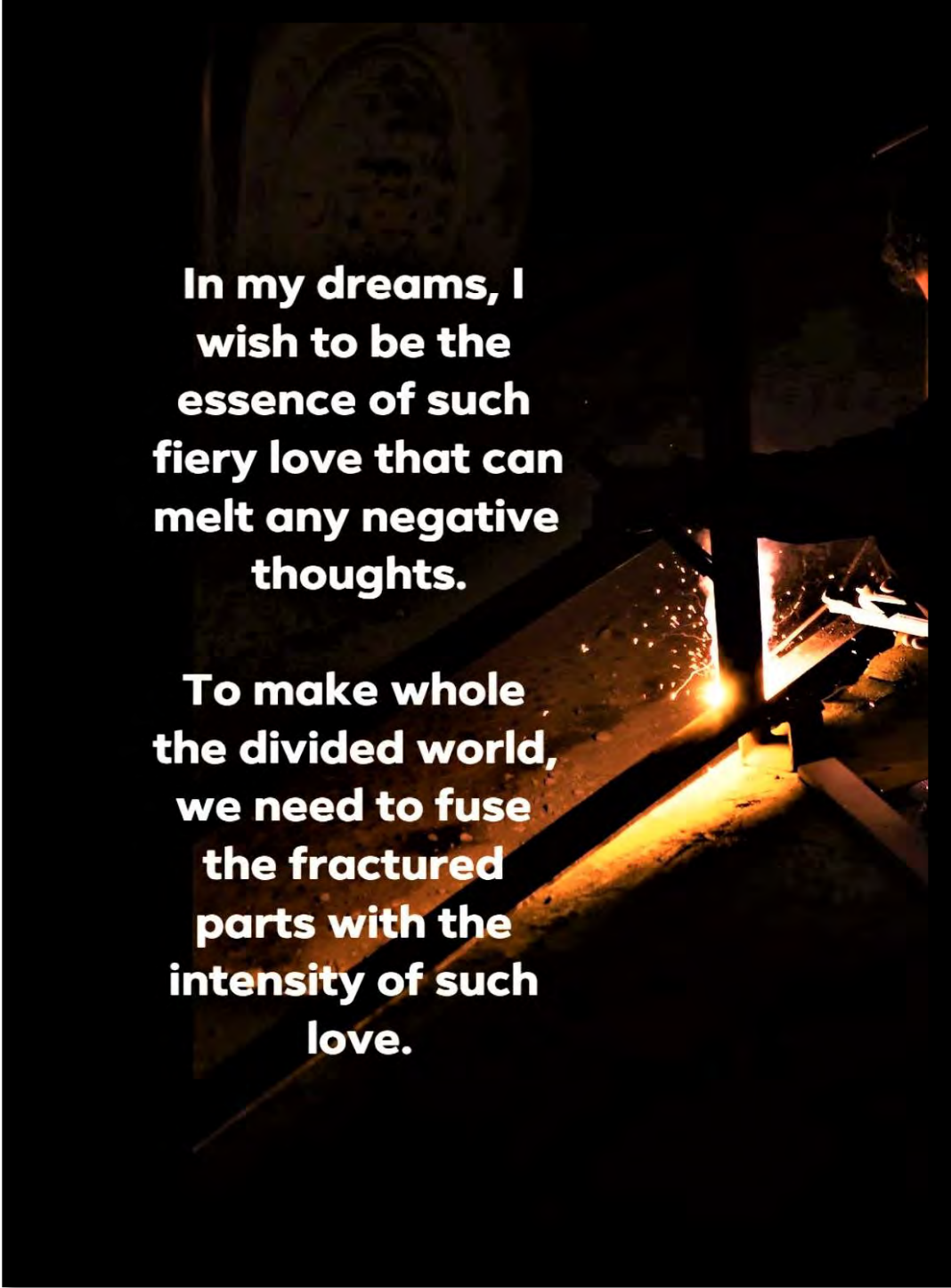
**would have acquainted
me with the immensity
of the Beloved's
creation.**

**And lovingly reminded
me that I am NOT the
center of the universe.**

**Though giant, I feel, I
am not even an atom
when compared.**

*“Free of the “I” and “mine,” self-controlled, firm and patient, his whole mind
focused on me ---that is the man I love best.” ~The Bhagavad Gita*

Fusing the Fractured World



**In my dreams, I
wish to be the
essence of such
fiery love that can
melt any negative
thoughts.**

**To make whole
the divided world,
we need to fuse
the fractured
parts with the
intensity of such
love.**

“For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.” ~1 Corinthians 12:12

The Real Change

**You do not want to be
near those who are
ignorant, ill-tempered
and weak.**

**You hate and despise
and belittle and ignore
them with ease.**

**"Love and pray for
them," the Beloved
says and "wish them
well."**

**This is how to change
them to be your
friends and then be at
peace.**



Rebuke not a scorner, lest he hates you. Rebuke a wise man and he will love you." ~Proverbs (Mishle) 9:8

The Heaven and Hell

**The thought of
Hell brings great
fear, and picturing
Heaven soothes
our souls.**

**Heaven and Hell
are here on earth
and are the
creation of our
actions and words.**

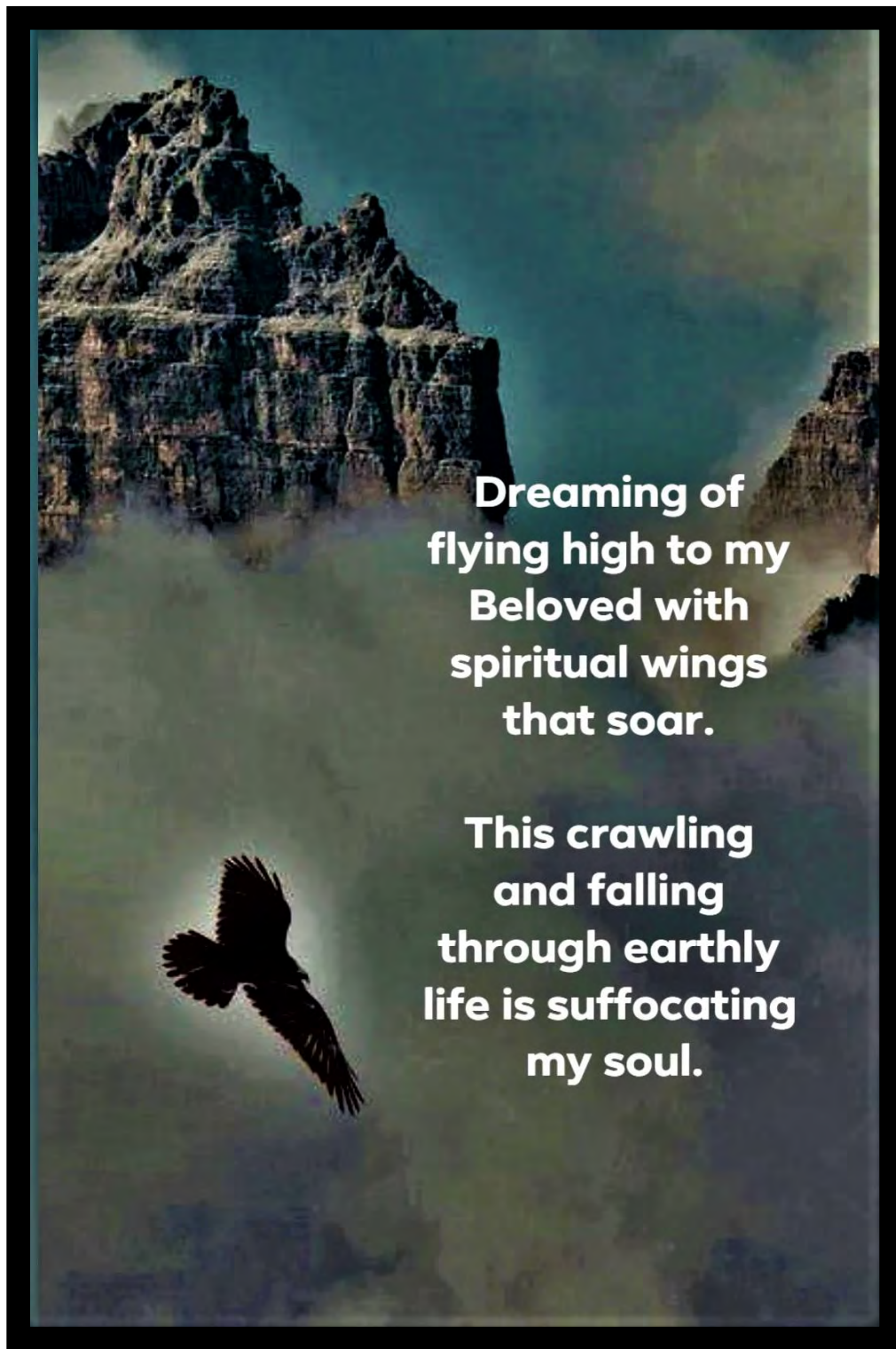
*All that we are is the result of what we have thought. The mind is everything.
What we think we become. ~Buddha*

Will be Together



O Son Of The Supreme! I have made death a messenger of joy to thee. Wherefore dost thou grieve? ~Bahá'u'lláh

Suffocating Life



**Dreaming of
flying high to my
Beloved with
spiritual wings
that soar.**

**This crawling
and falling
through earthly
life is suffocating
my soul.**

"You were born with wings, why prefer to crawl through life?" ~Rumi

The Fork in the Road

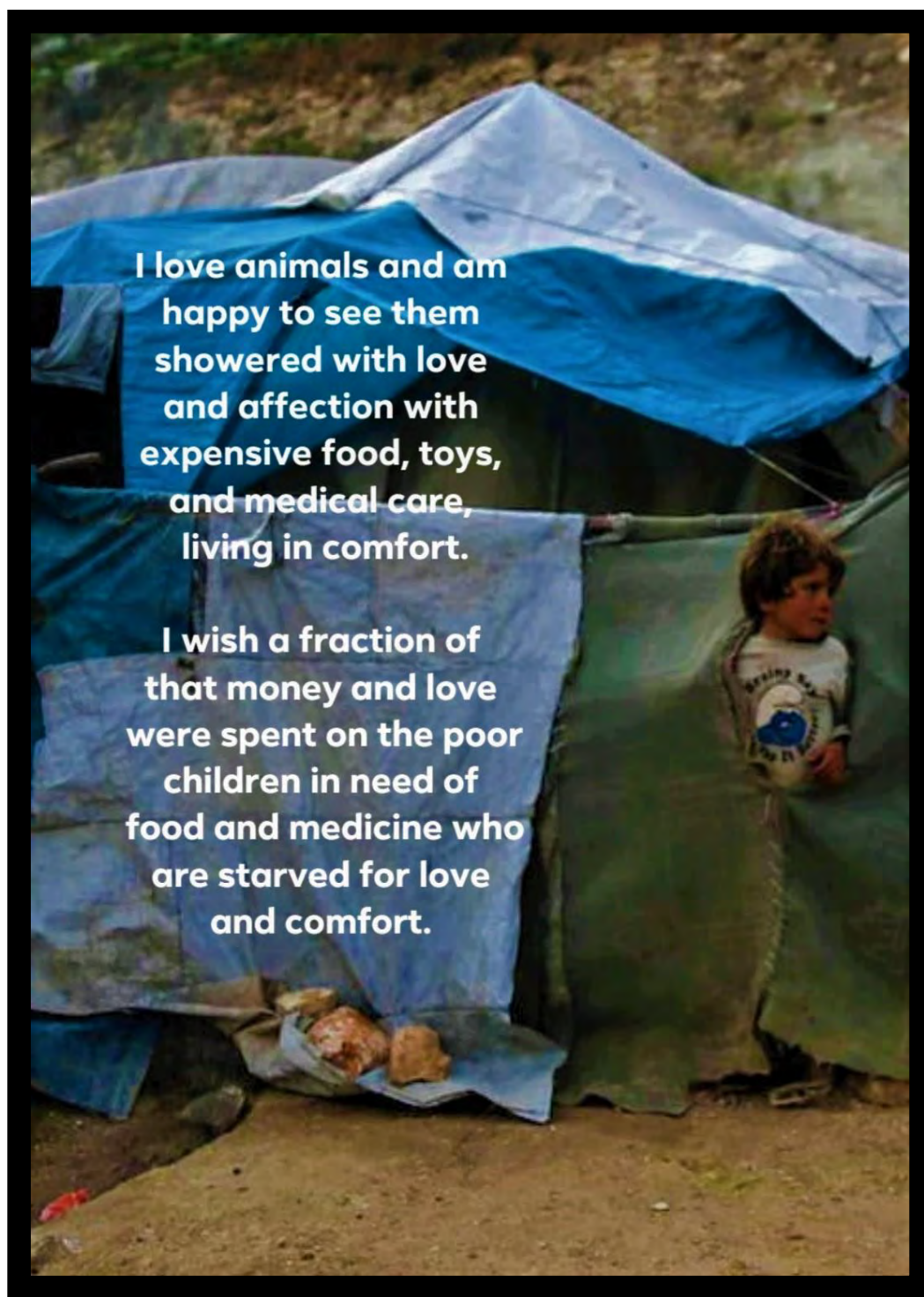


**Every sad, tragic
event in our lives
is like a fork in the
road.**

**The road to being
stuck or becoming
wiser, the choice is
yours.**

"A wise man among the ignorant is as a beautiful girl in the company of blind men." ~Saadi

Loving Animals

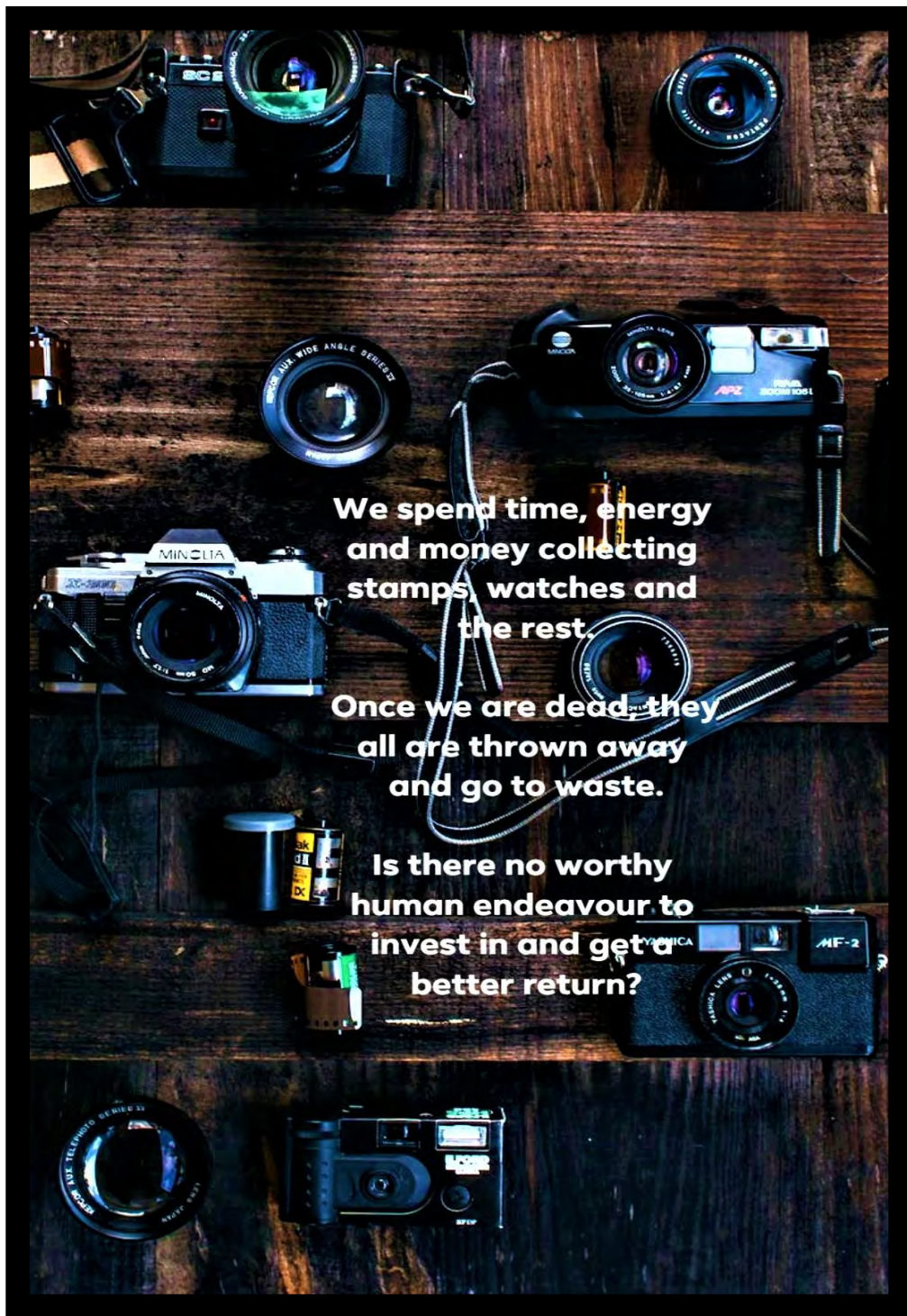


I love animals and am
happy to see them
showered with love
and affection with
expensive food, toys,
and medical care,
living in comfort.

I wish a fraction of
that money and love
were spent on the poor
children in need of
food and medicine who
are starved for love
and comfort.

"Ye must not only have kind and merciful feelings for mankind, but ye should also exercise the utmost kindness towards every living creature." ~Abdu'l-Baha

Collections



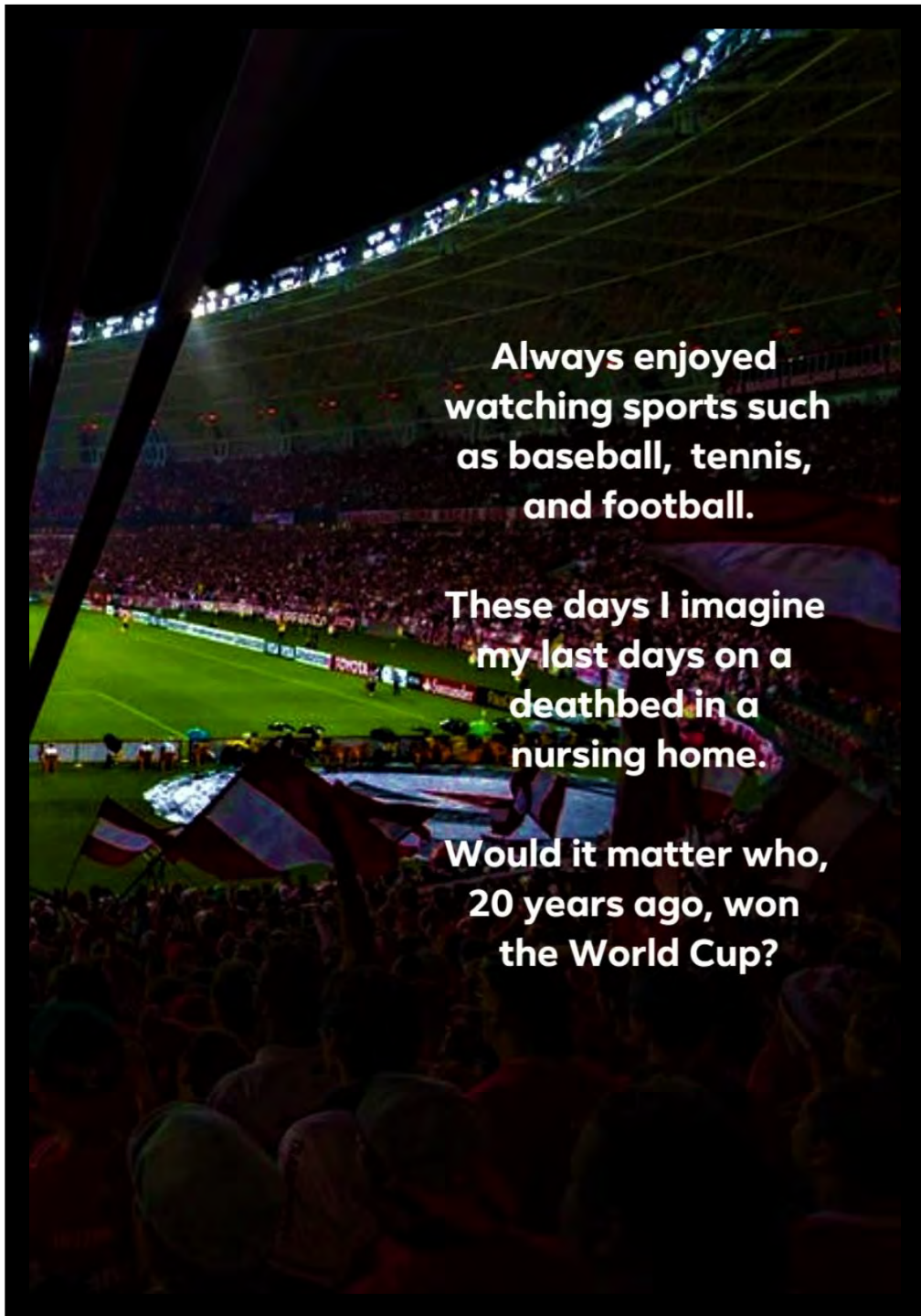
We spend time, energy
and money collecting
stamps, watches and
the rest.

Once we are dead, they
all are thrown away
and go to waste.

Is there no worthy
human endeavour to
invest in and get a
better return?

"The lust for comfort, that stealthy thing that enters the house a guest, and then becomes a host, and then a master." ~Khalil Gibran

Transitory Pleasures



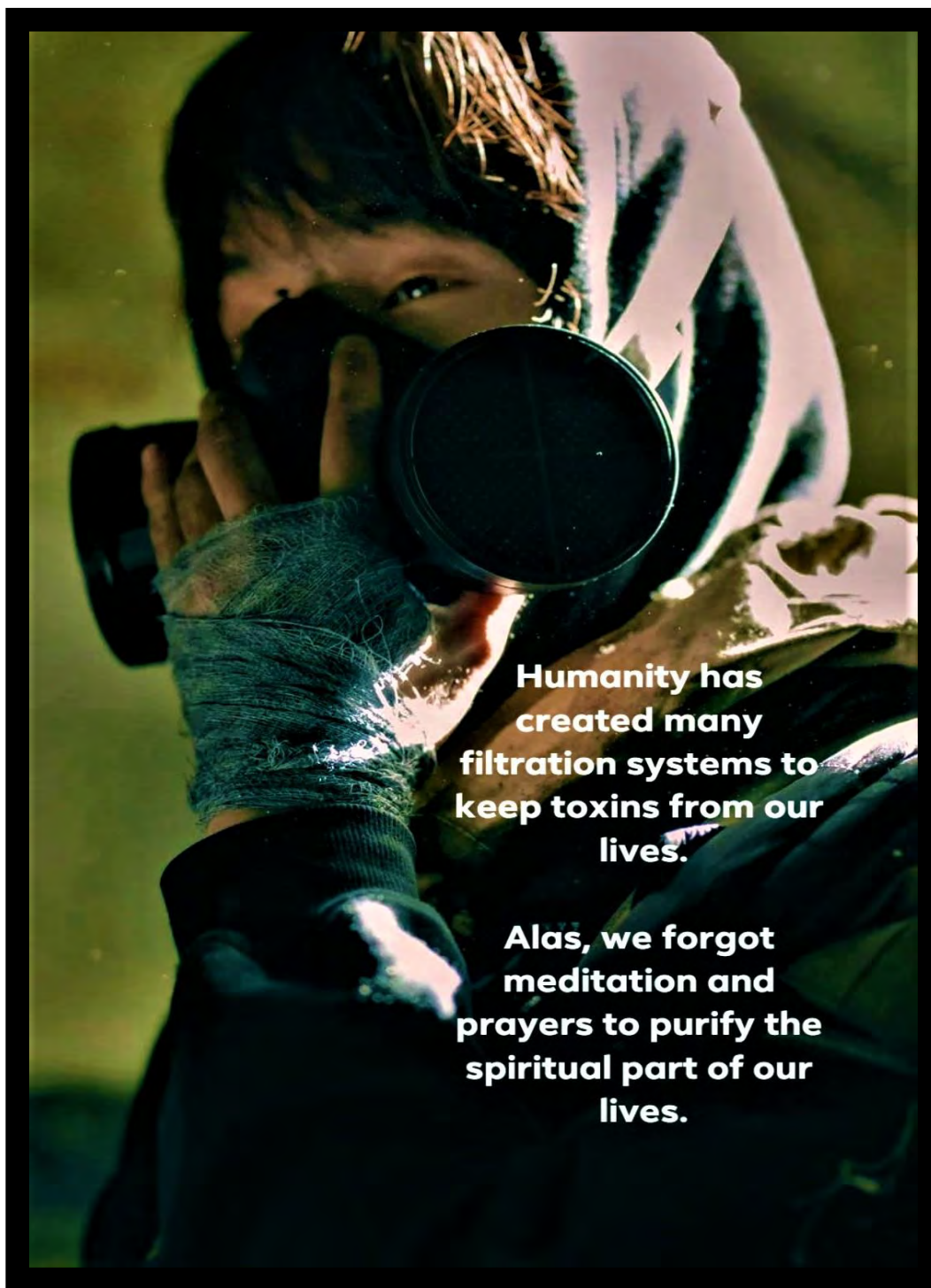
Always enjoyed
watching sports such
as baseball, tennis,
and football.

These days I imagine
my last days on a
deathbed in a
nursing home.

Would it matter who,
20 years ago, won
the World Cup?

"A hair divides what is false and true." ~Omar Khayyam

Purify Your Souls

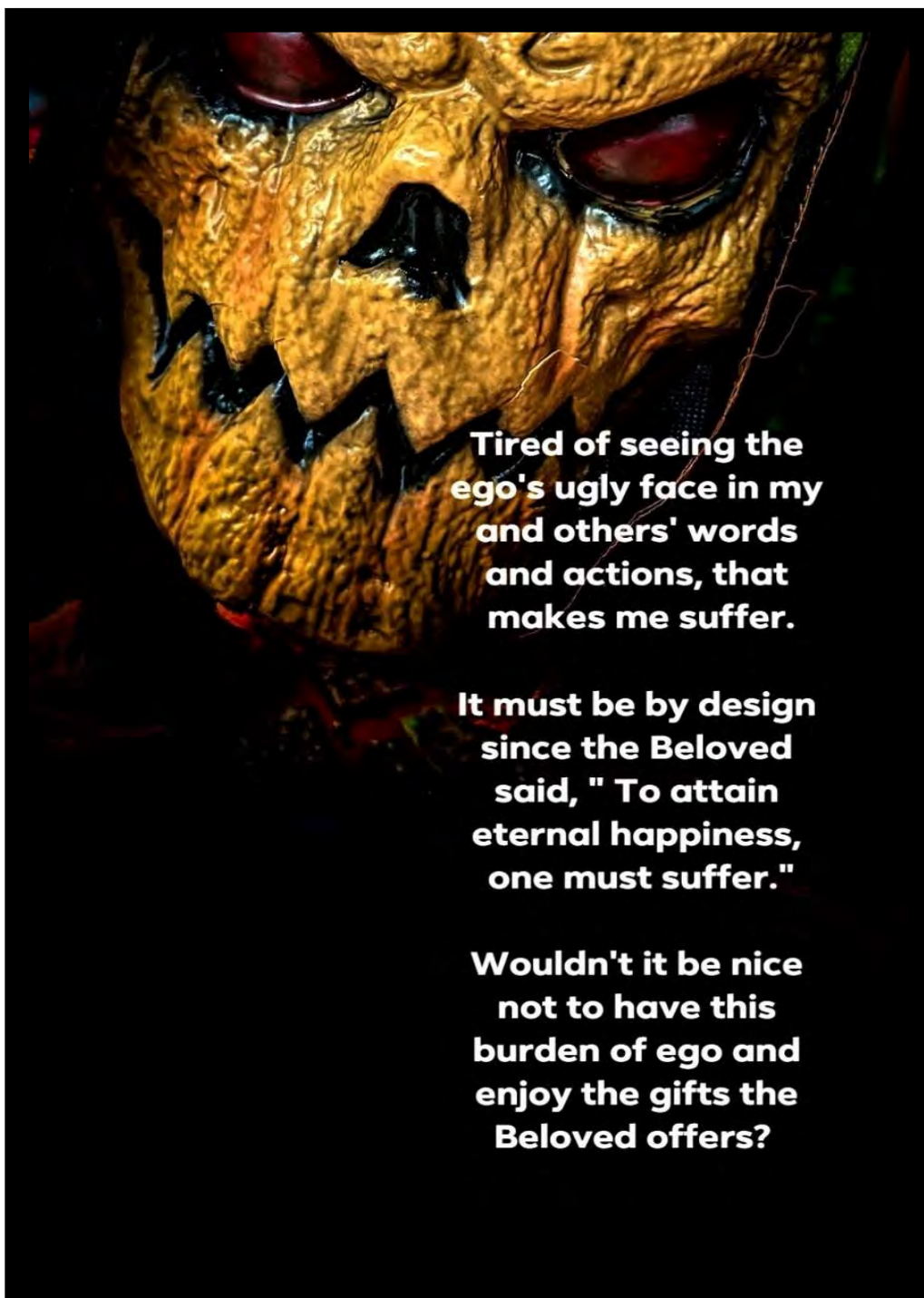


**Humanity has
created many
filtration systems to
keep toxins from our
lives.**

**Alas, we forgot
meditation and
prayers to purify the
spiritual part of our
lives.**

"O Son of Spirit! My first counsel is this: Possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart." ~Bahá'u'lláh

Ugly Face of Ego



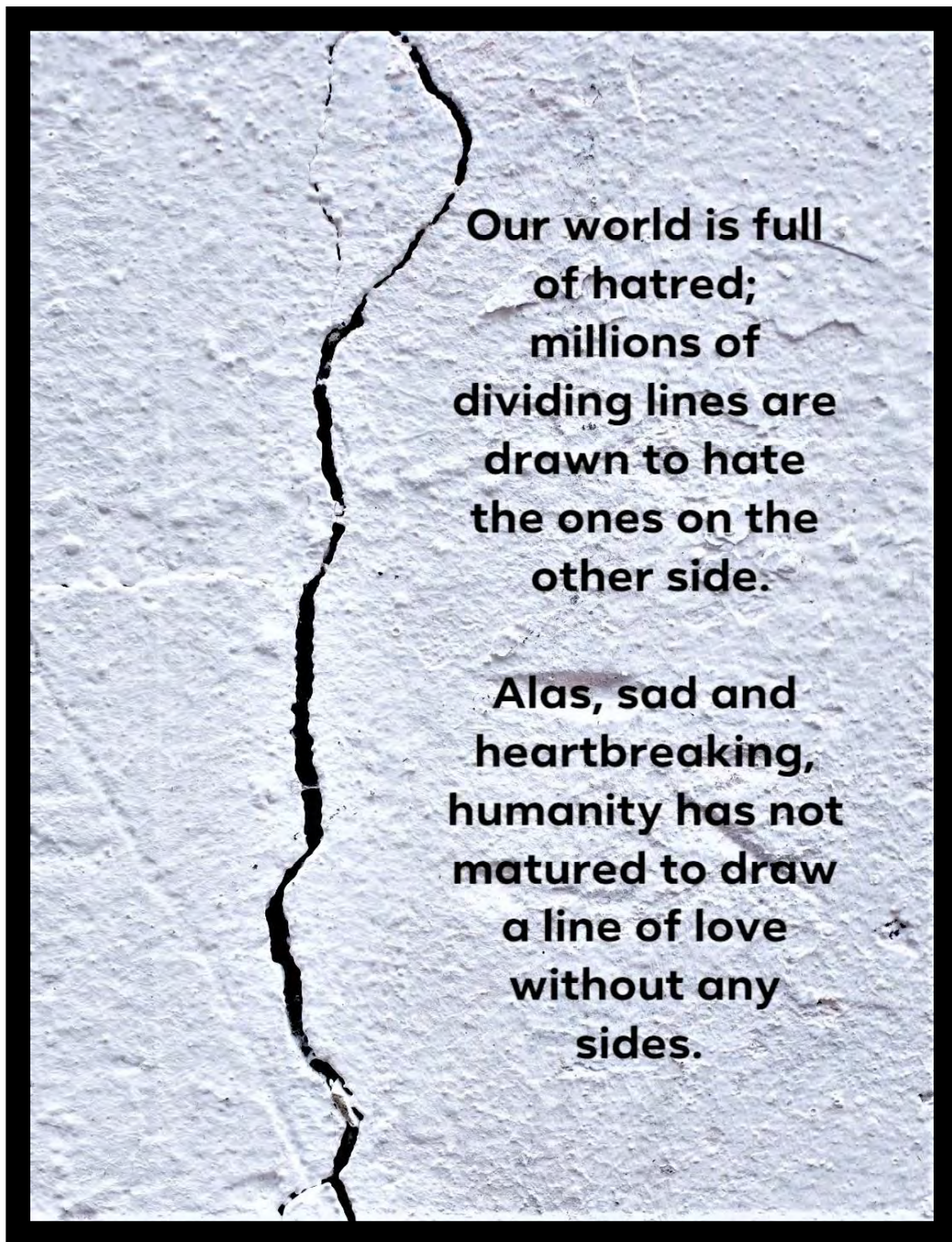
**Tired of seeing the
ego's ugly face in my
and others' words
and actions, that
makes me suffer.**

**It must be by design
since the Beloved
said, " To attain
eternal happiness,
one must suffer."**

**Wouldn't it be nice
not to have this
burden of ego and
enjoy the gifts the
Beloved offers?**

*"Beauty surrounds us, but usually we need to be walking in a garden to know
it." ~Rumi*

The Line of Love



Our world is full
of hatred;
millions of
dividing lines are
drawn to hate
the ones on the
other side.

Alas, sad and
heartbreaking,
humanity has not
matured to draw
a line of love
without any
sides.

Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch. Deal ye one with another with the utmost love and harmony, with friendliness and fellowship."

~Baha'u'llah

Friends and Foes



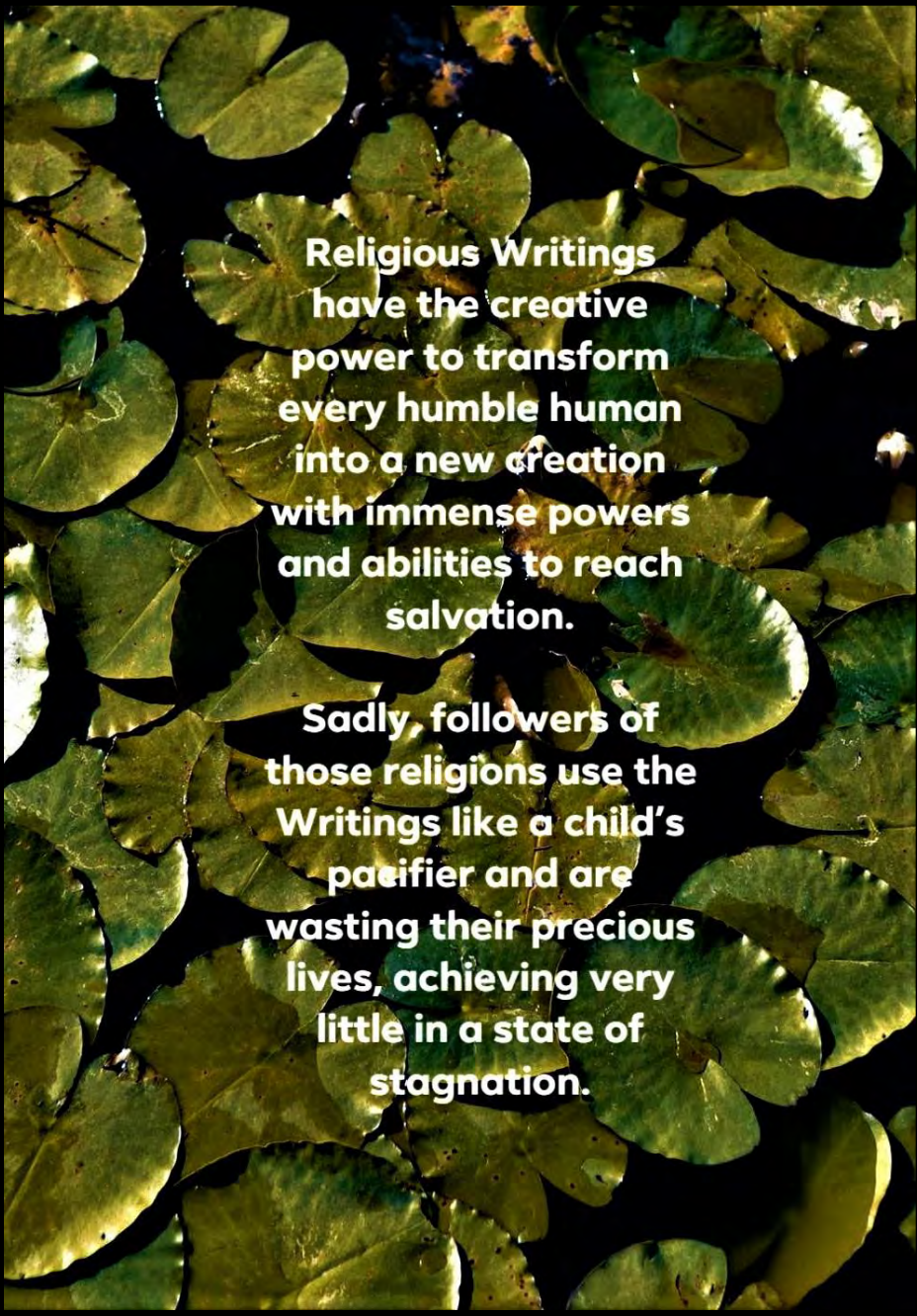
Friends and loved ones
give you love, spoil you and
make you feel accepted
and content so you do not
try to work hard to attain
greater heights.

Your enemies test you and
create hell in your life to
bring you down, but they
make you hardened,
determined and more
resolved.

Ah, the irony of life where
love, hate, friends and foes
intermingle, and you are
not sure which is beneficial
and which will do you
harm.

“A person is said to be further advanced when he regards all—the honest well-wisher, friends and enemies, the envious, the pious, the sinner and those who are indifferent and impartial” ~Bhagvat Gita

Religious Stagnation

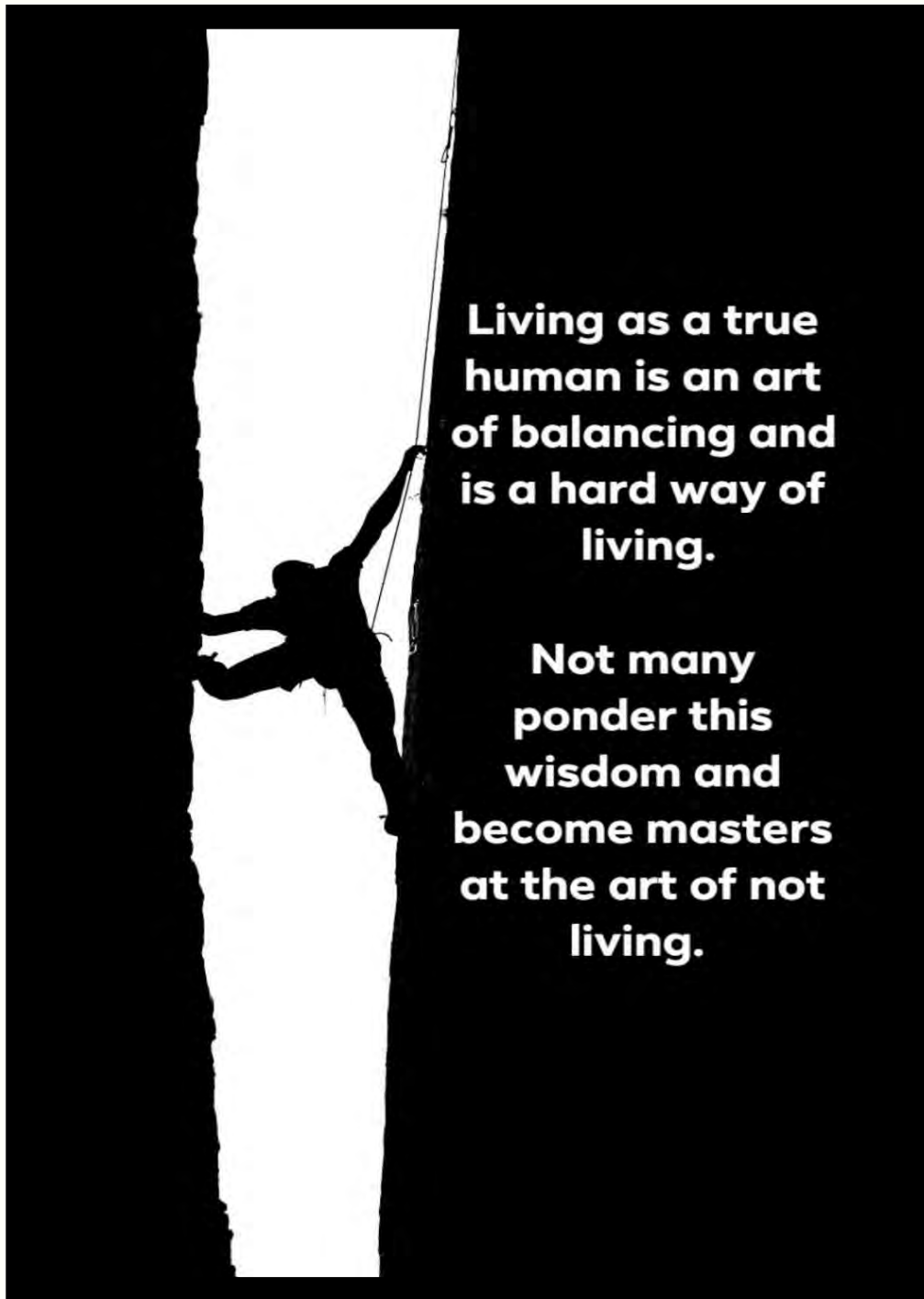


**Religious Writings
have the creative
power to transform
every humble human
into a new creation
with immense powers
and abilities to reach
salvation.**

**Sadly, followers of
those religions use the
Writings like a child's
pacifier and are
wasting their precious
lives, achieving very
little in a state of
stagnation.**

“One thing and only one thing will unfailingly and alone secure the undoubted triumph of this sacred Cause, namely, the extent to which our own inner life and private character mirror forth in their manifold aspects the splendor of those eternal principles proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh.” ~Shoghi Effendi

The Art of Living

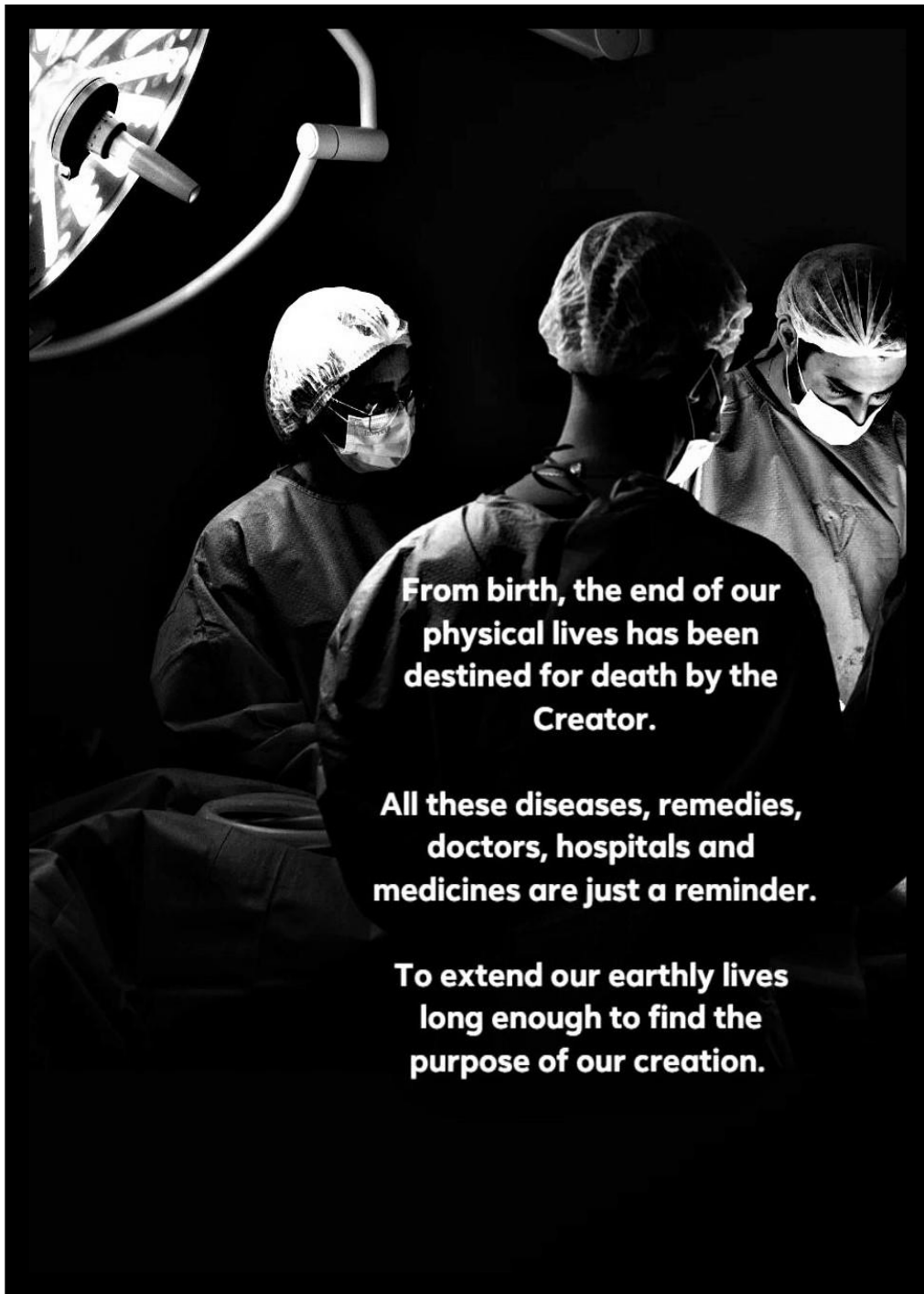


**Living as a true
human is an art
of balancing and
is a hard way of
living.**

**Not many
ponder this
wisdom and
become masters
at the art of not
living.**

*“Use a sweet tongue, courtesy, and gentleness, and thou mayest manage to guide
an elephant with a hair.” ~Saadi*

Prolonging Life



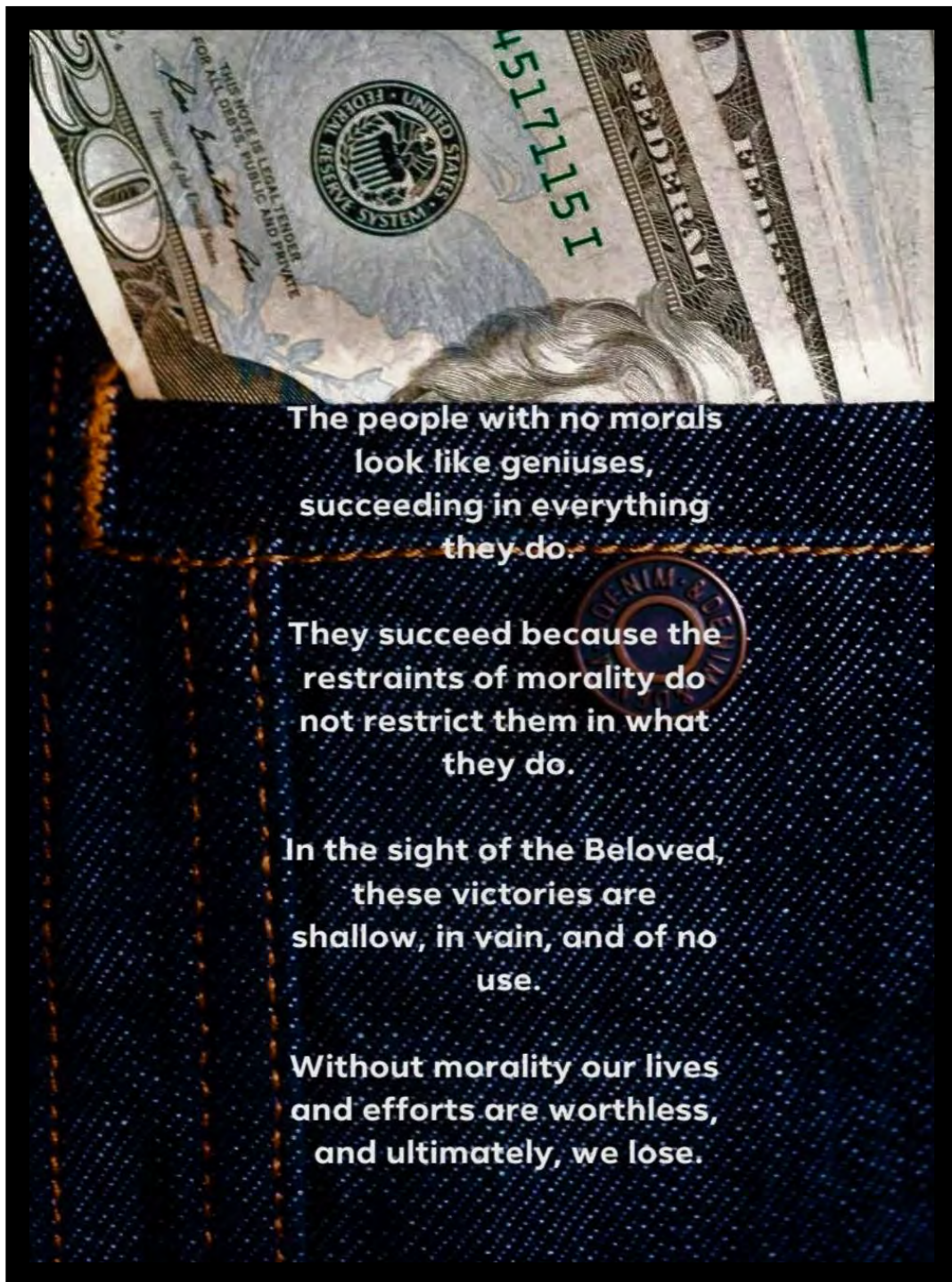
**From birth, the end of our
physical lives has been
destined for death by the
Creator.**

**All these diseases, remedies,
doctors, hospitals and
medicines are just a reminder.**

**To extend our earthly lives
long enough to find the
purpose of our creation.**

"The wound is the place where the Light enters you." ~Rumi

Without Morality, we Lose



The people with no morals
look like geniuses,
succeeding in everything
they do.

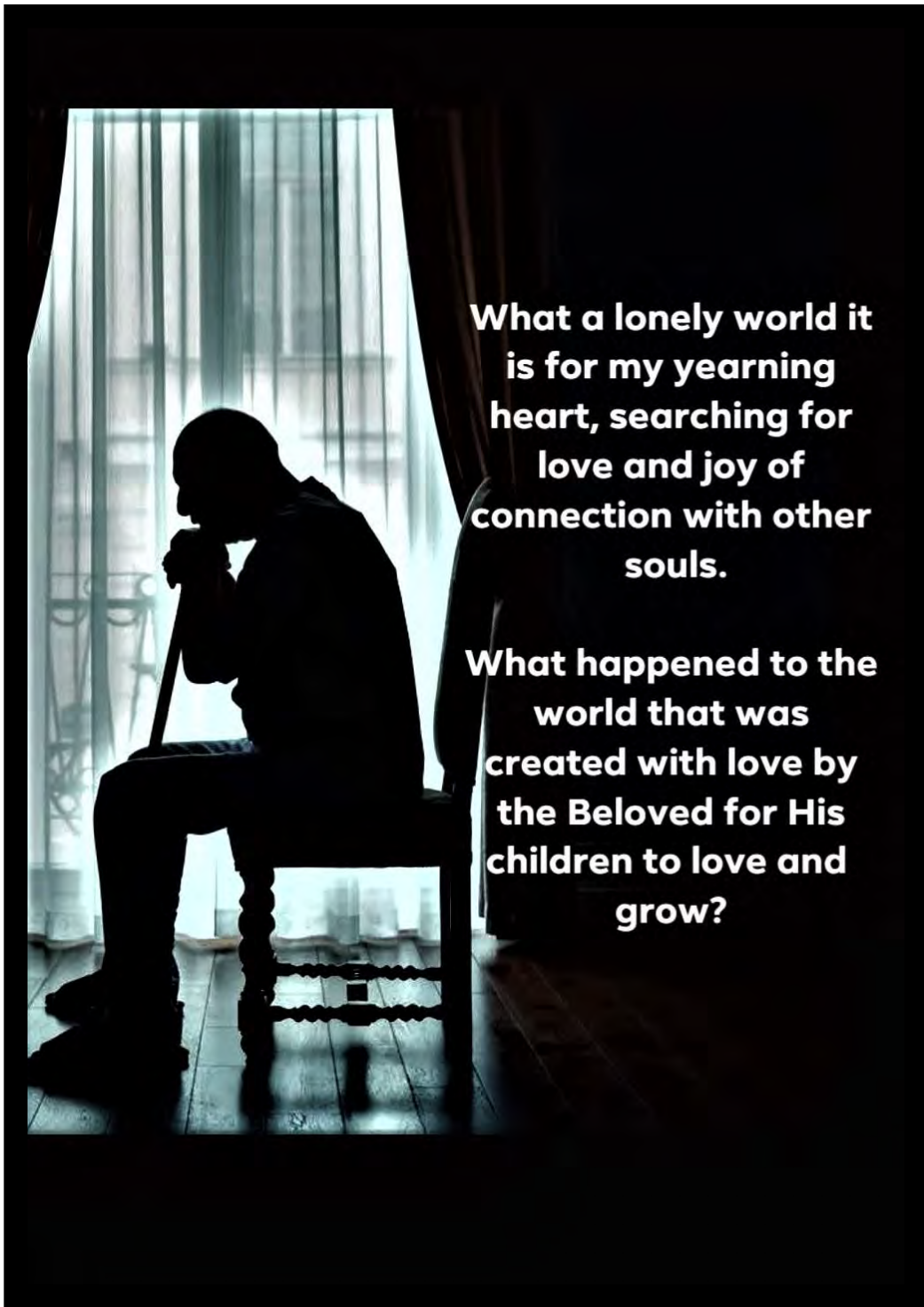
They succeed because the
restraints of morality do
not restrict them in what
they do.

In the sight of the Beloved,
these victories are
shallow, in vain, and of no
use.

Without morality our lives
and efforts are worthless,
and ultimately, we lose.

"Fear not to follow with pious feet the corpse of Hafiz, for though he was drowned in the ocean of sin, he may find a place in paradise." ~Hafez

Lonely Hearts



**What a lonely world it
is for my yearning
heart, searching for
love and joy of
connection with other
souls.**

**What happened to the
world that was
created with love by
the Beloved for His
children to love and
grow?**

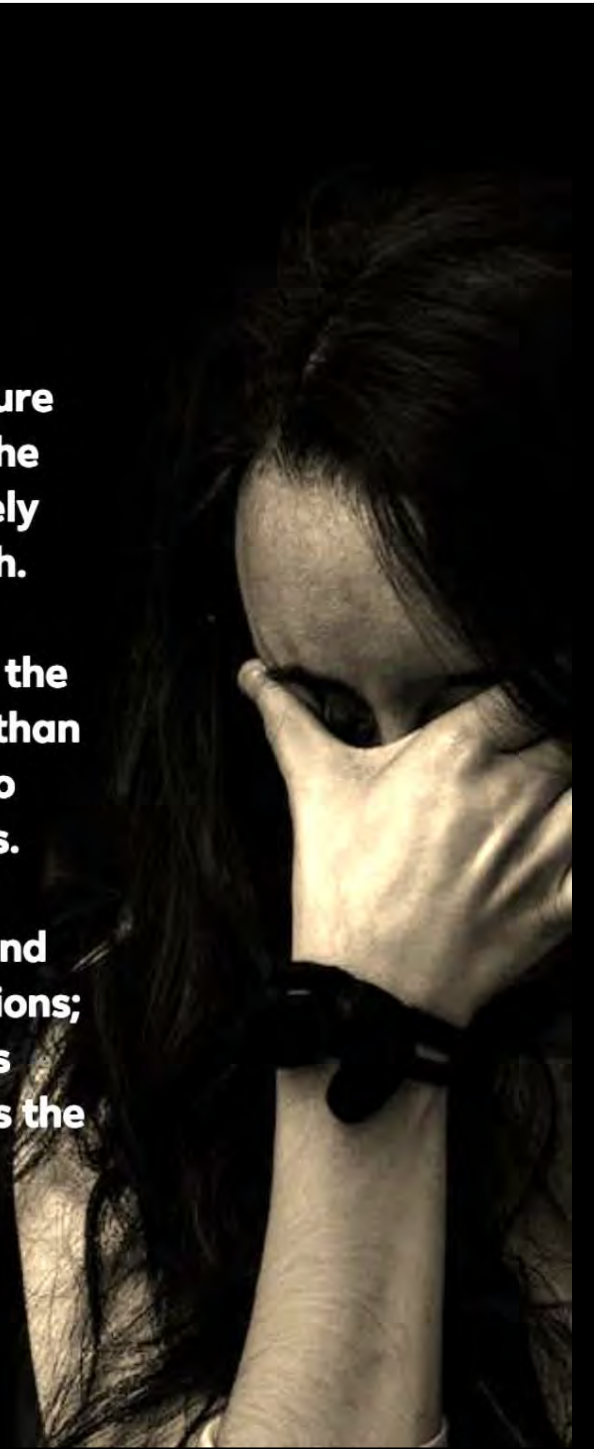
It's no virtue to gain the whole world. Just gain the heart of one person. ~Saadi

The Loud Cries of the Rich

**No one can measure
the intensity of the
pain of the gravely
sick, poor or rich.**

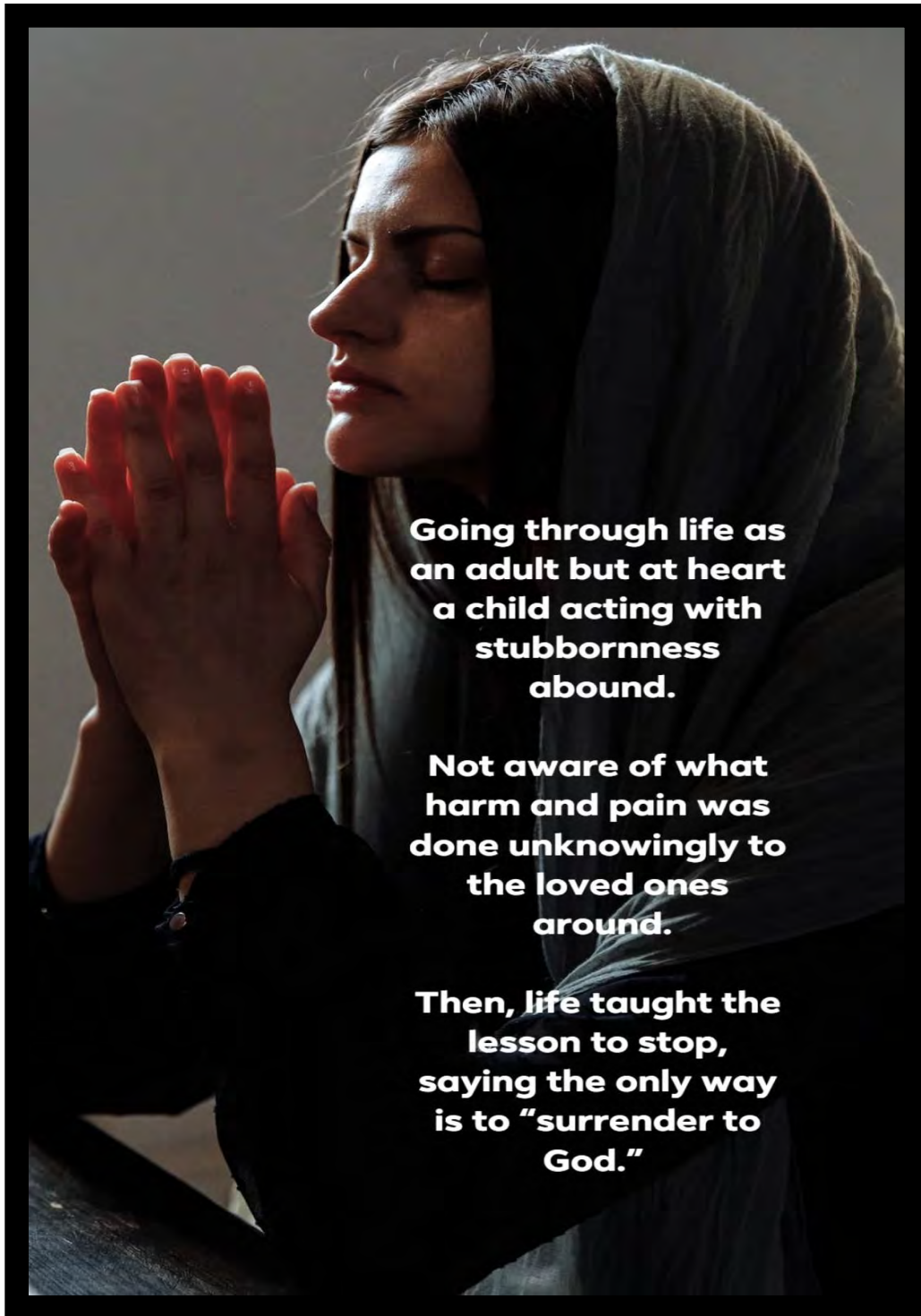
**It amazes me that the
rich's cry is louder than
the poor with no
financial means.**

**One has money and
still asks for donations;
the other wants
nothing and suffers the
agonies.**



"No deed of man is greater before God than helping the poor." ~Abdu'l-Baha

Surrender to God



Going through life as
an adult but at heart
a child acting with
stubbornness
abound.

Not aware of what
harm and pain was
done unknowingly to
the loved ones
around.

Then, life taught the
lesson to stop,
saying the only way
is to "surrender to
God."

"O, happy the soul that saw its own faults." ~Rumi

The Two Civilizations

**There are two kinds of
civilizations: the spiritual
and the material.**

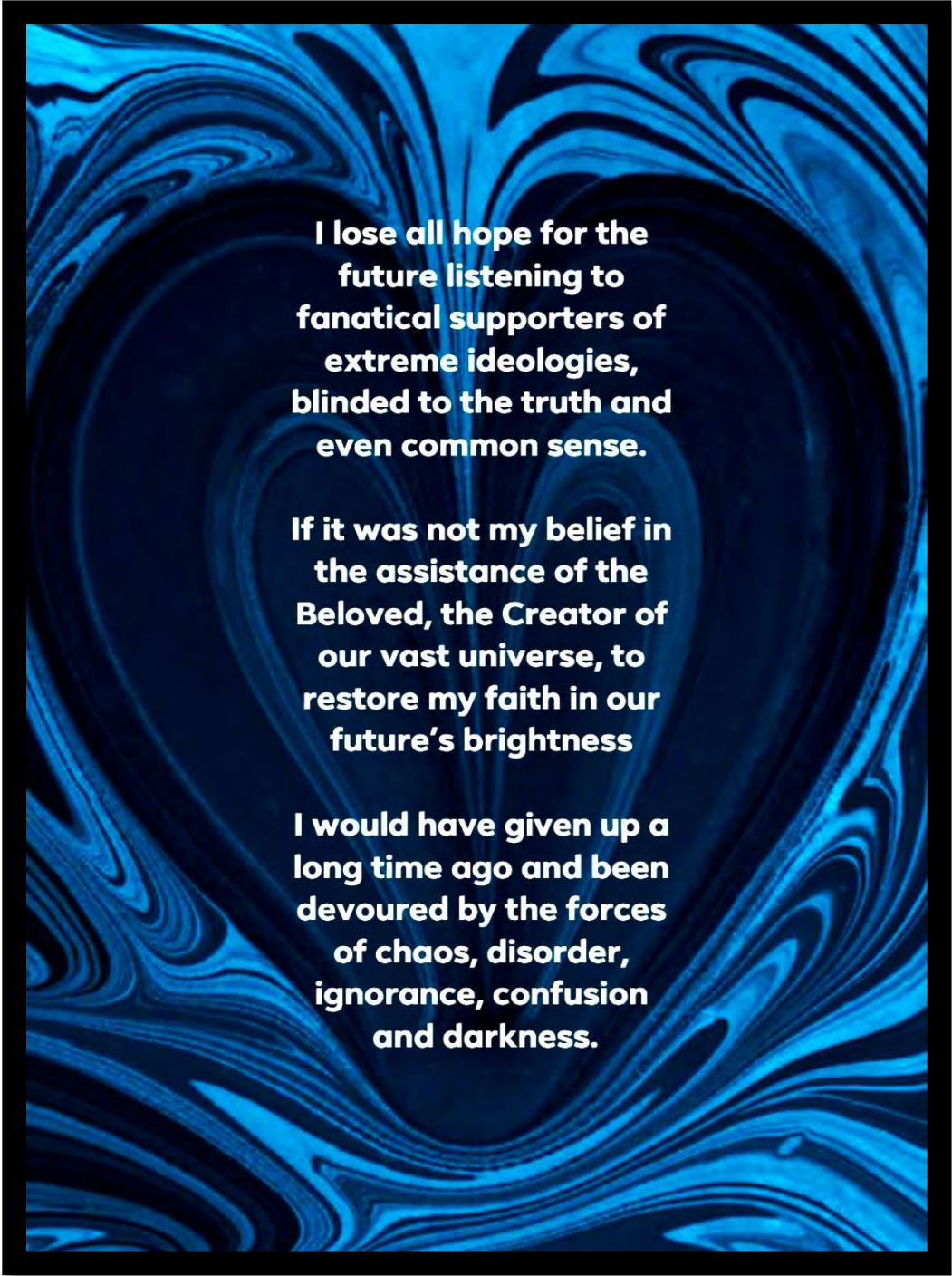
**I wonder how humanity
can catch up since
material progress has
multiplied.**

**We must widen our vision
and vitalize our spiritual
life, or our future is in
doubt.**

**Only the words of the
Beloved can guide us if we
want to build on earth our
Heanley Paradise.**

“Material civilization concerns the world of matter or bodies, but divine civilization is the realm of ethics and moralities. Until the moral degree of the nations is advanced and human virtues attain a lofty level, happiness for mankind is impossible.” ~ Abdu’l-Baha

Agents of Chaos



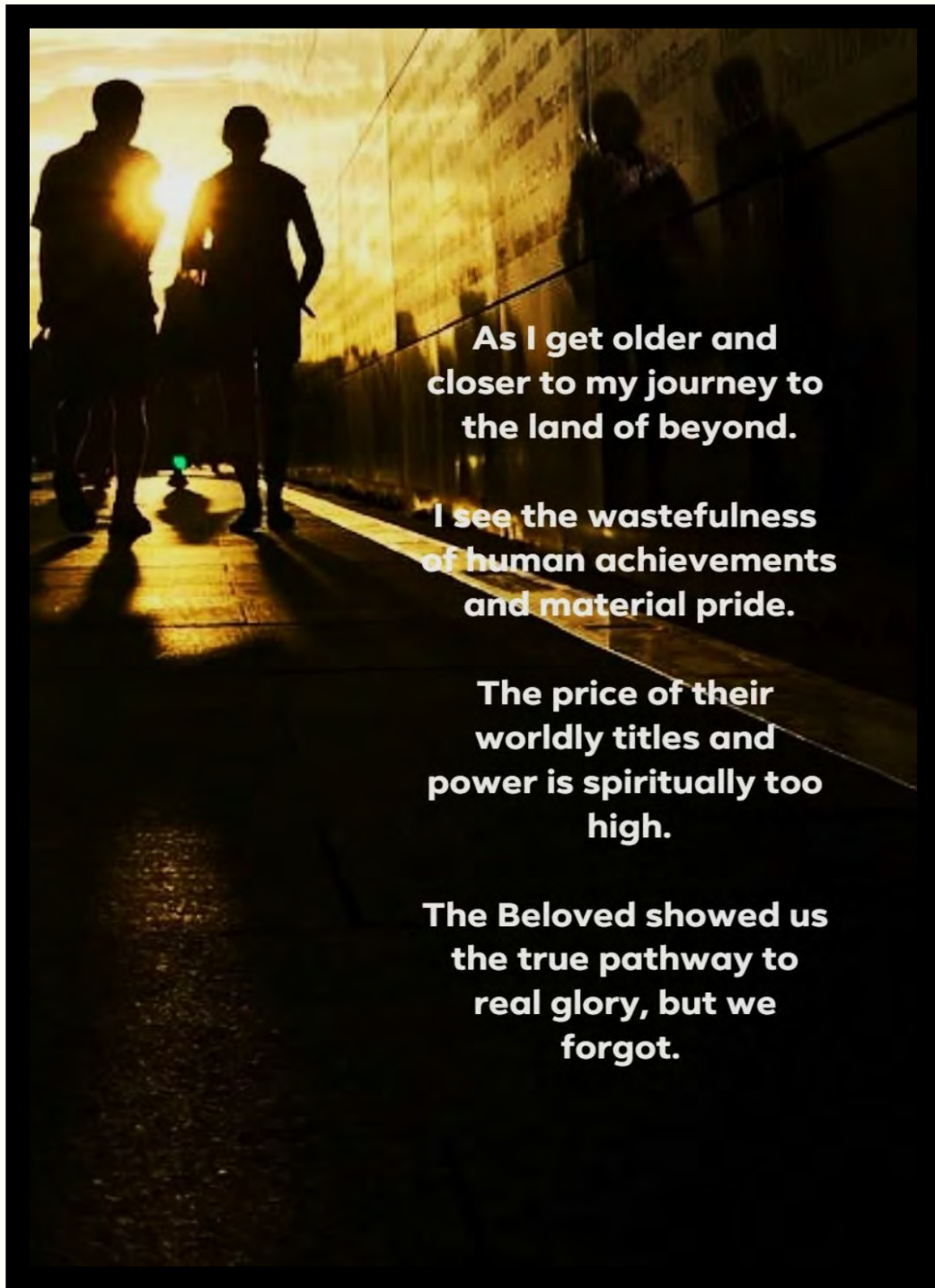
**I lose all hope for the
future listening to
fanatical supporters of
extreme ideologies,
blinded to the truth and
even common sense.**

**If it was not my belief in
the assistance of the
Beloved, the Creator of
our vast universe, to
restore my faith in our
future's brightness**

**I would have given up a
long time ago and been
devoured by the forces
of chaos, disorder,
ignorance, confusion
and darkness.**

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted" ~Matthew 5:13

Real Glory



**As I get older and
closer to my journey to
the land of beyond.**

**I see the wastefulness
of human achievements
and material pride.**

**The price of their
worldly titles and
power is spiritually too
high.**

**The Beloved showed us
the true pathway to
real glory, but we
forgot.**

The best loved by God are those that are rich, yet have the humility of the poor, and those that are poor and have the magnanimity of the rich." ~Saadi

Hope



Our world is changing for the worse at the speed of light, keeping humanity bewildered, overwhelmed, defeated and failing to cope.

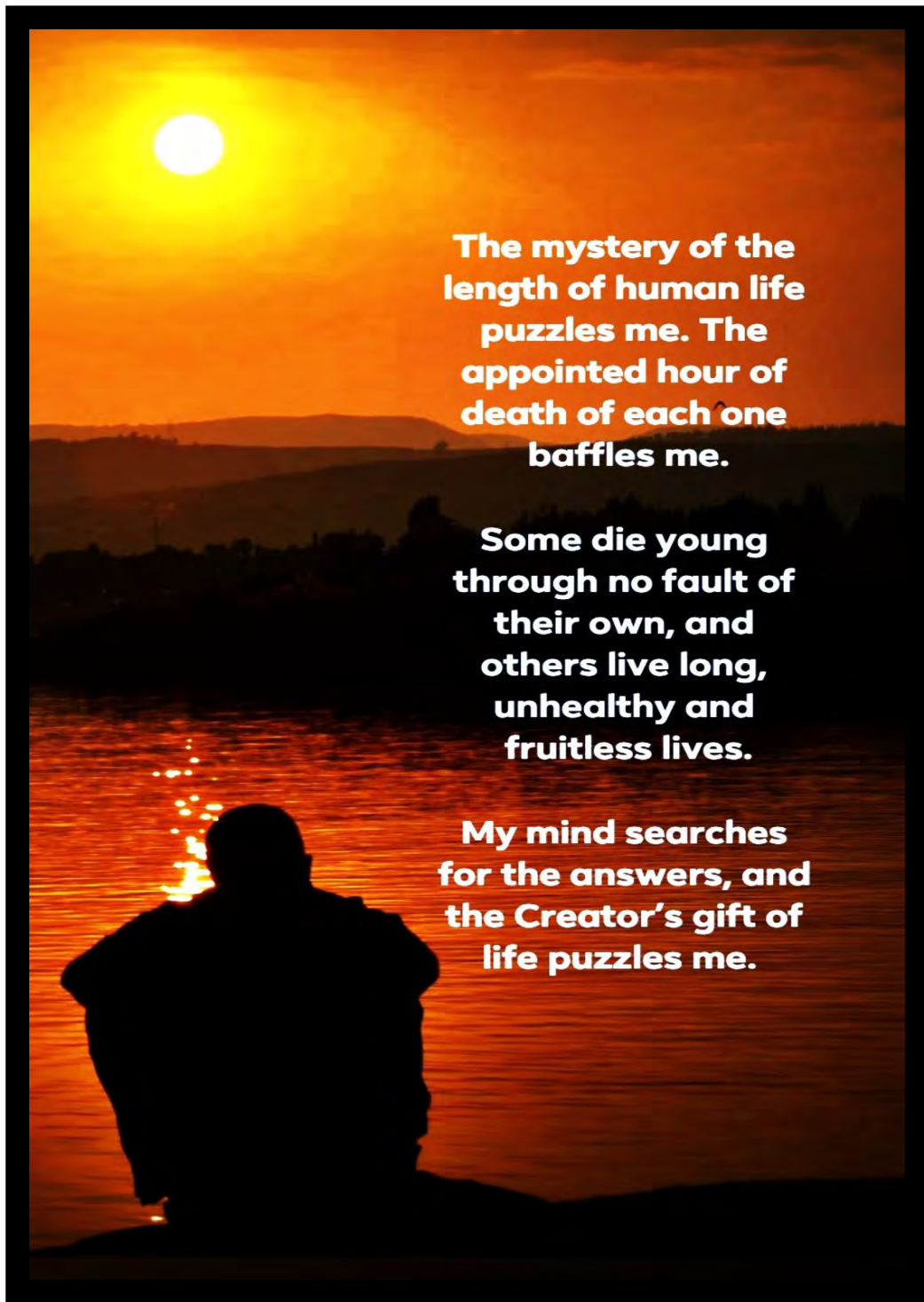
Changes are everywhere in politics, economics, and the environment, and the onslaught of misinformation does not give us hope.

Is there any hope? I say no, not until we bring back humanity and morality and reject the fake leaders who boast.

Love, caring, sympathy, peace, unity, and truth are not empty slogans; they are our only remedies to survive, heal, and cope.

"We are what we think. All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts, we make the world." ~Bhuddah

The Mystery of Life



"In this world he must prepare himself for the life beyond. That which he needs in the world of the Kingdom must be obtained here." ~Abdu'l-Bahá

The Candle and the Moth

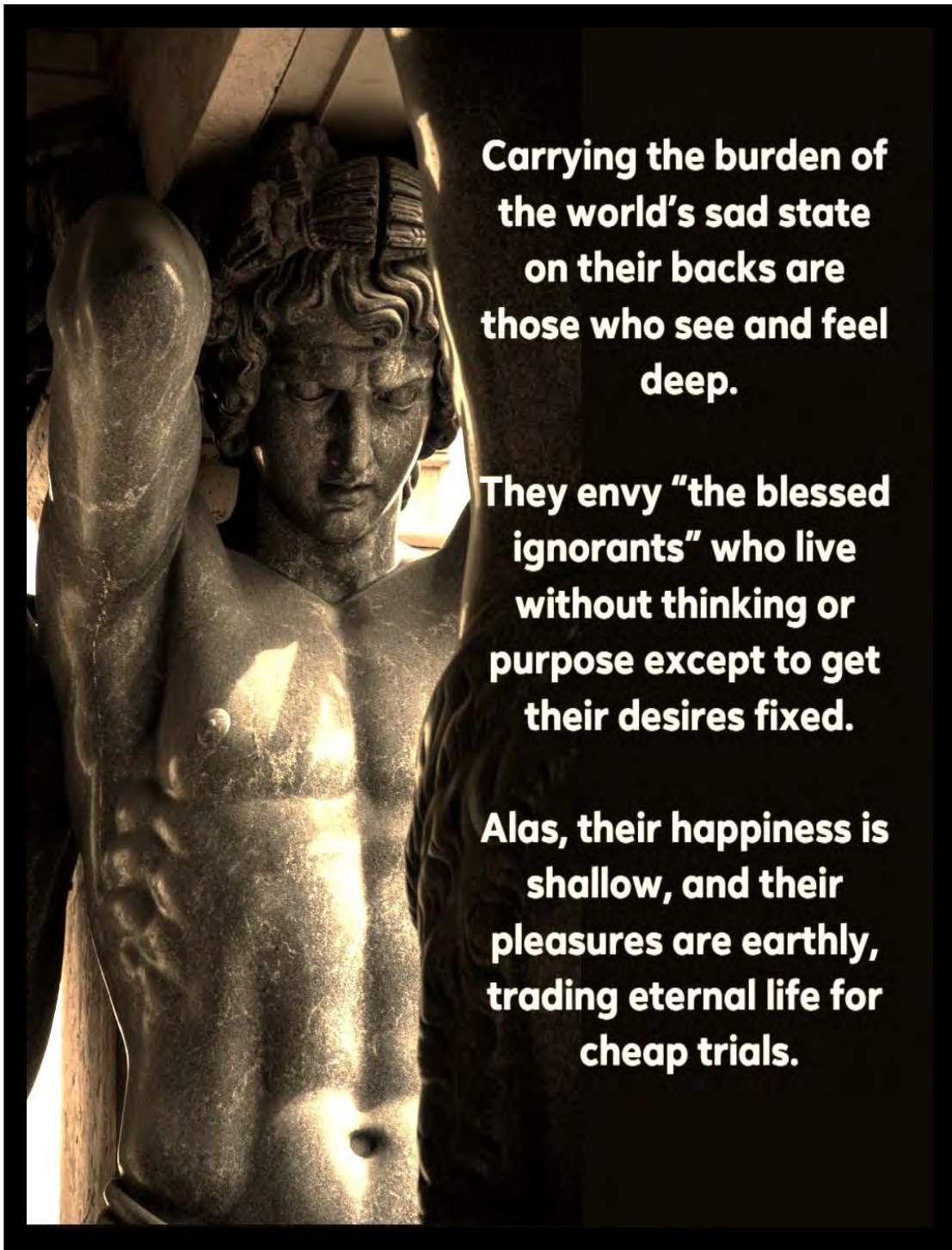
The sacrifice of the moth for the love of light and burning is painful. The story of the moth and the candle is famous and well-known.

The burning of the moth is tragic but fast and short. But the sacrifice of slow burning of the candle to give light is unknown.



“My life is like a candle that has burned all night, and has burned away: And like the burned moth, I will not rest until I see the light of day.” ~Hafiz

The Blessed Ignorants



**Carrying the burden of
the world's sad state
on their backs are
those who see and feel
deep.**

**They envy "the blessed
ignorants" who live
without thinking or
purpose except to get
their desires fixed.**

**Alas, their happiness is
shallow, and their
pleasures are earthly,
trading eternal life for
cheap trials.**

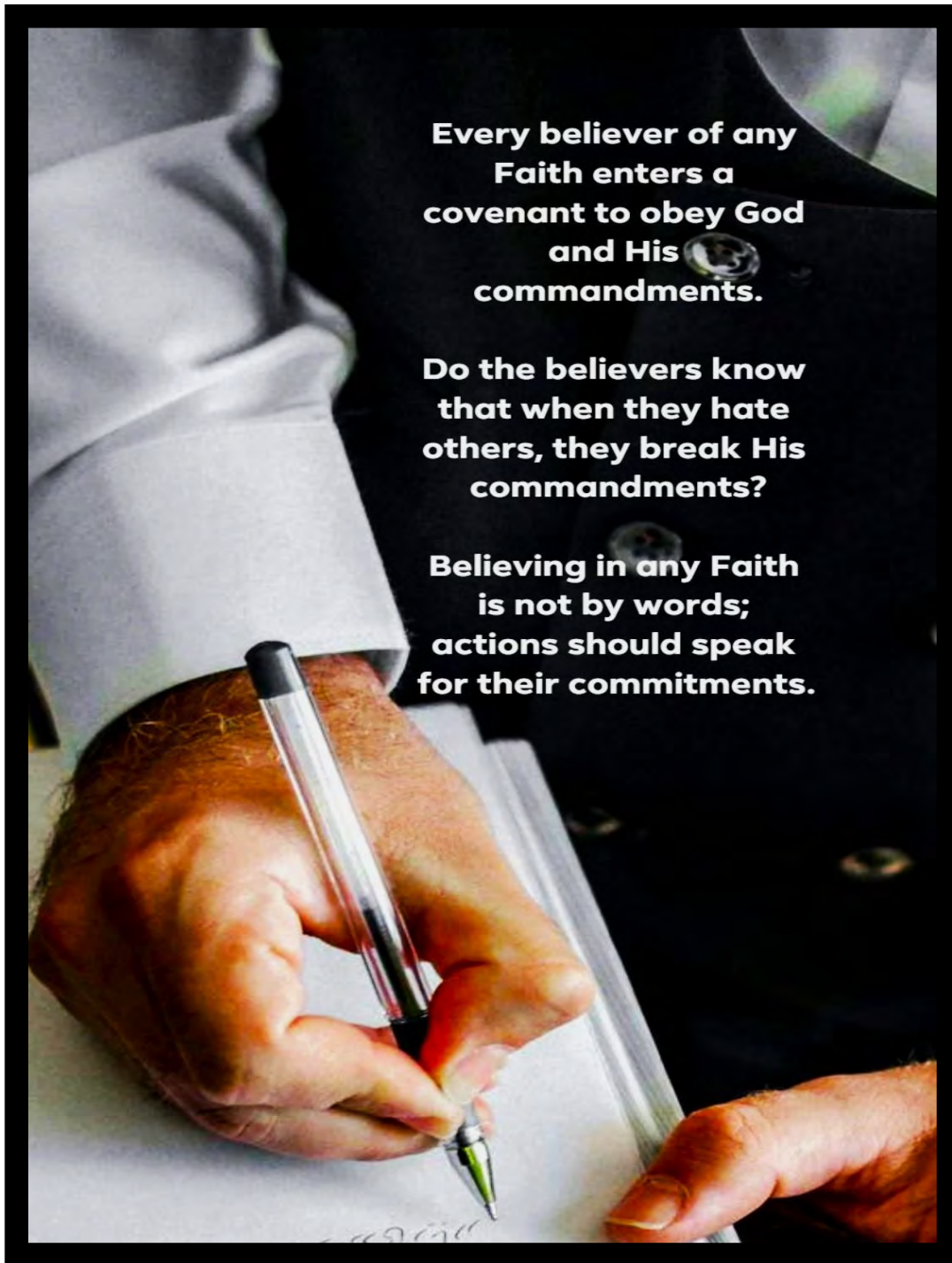
"Beauty surrounds us, but usually we need to be walking in a garden to know it." ~Rumi

Love is an Empty Word



"O SON OF MAN! For everything there is a sign. The sign of love is fortitude under My decree and patience under My trials." ~Baha'u'llah

Keep the Covenant



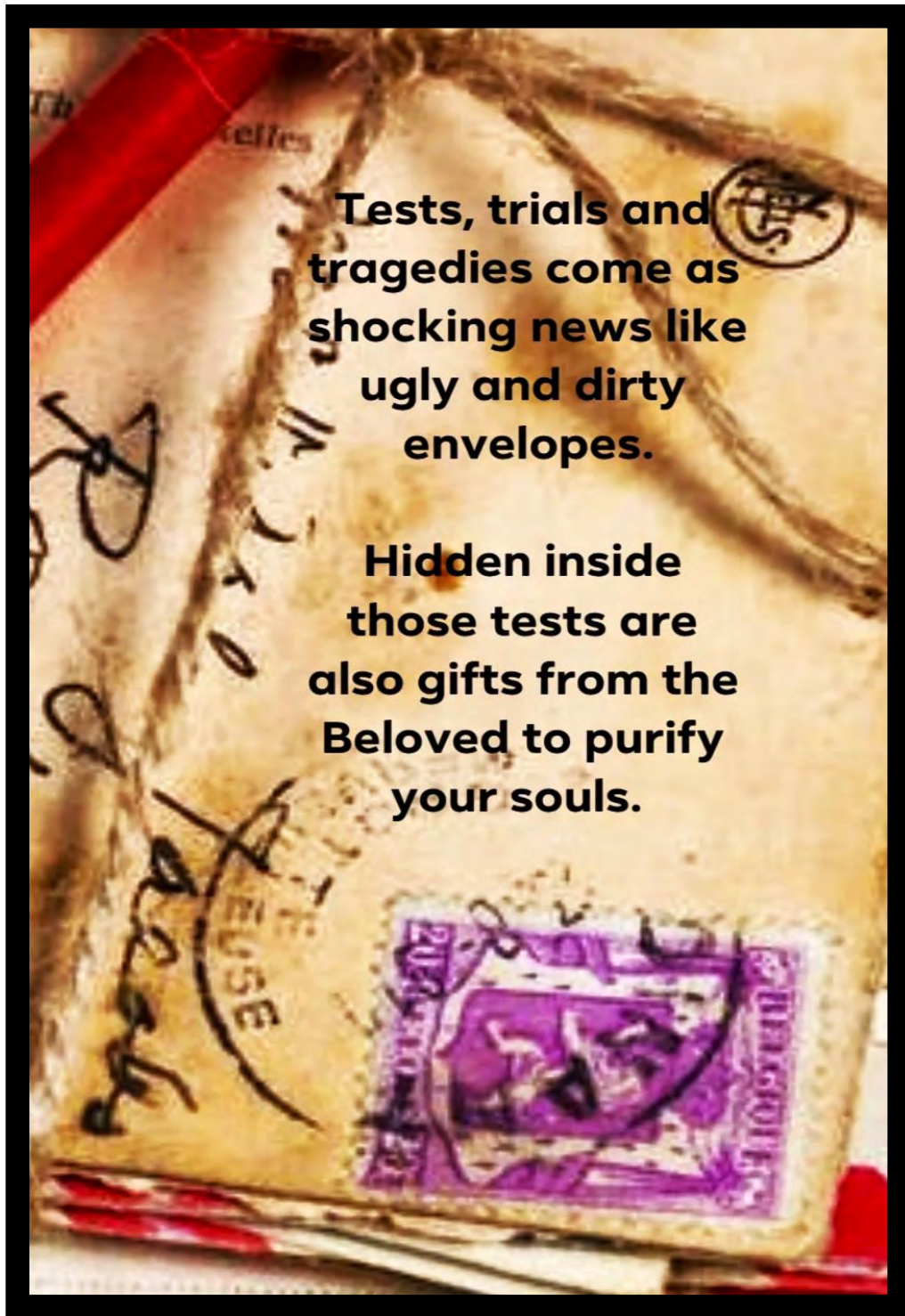
**Every believer of any
Faith enters a
covenant to obey God
and His
commandments.**

**Do the believers know
that when they hate
others, they break His
commandments?**

**Believing in any Faith
is not by words;
actions should speak
for their commitments.**

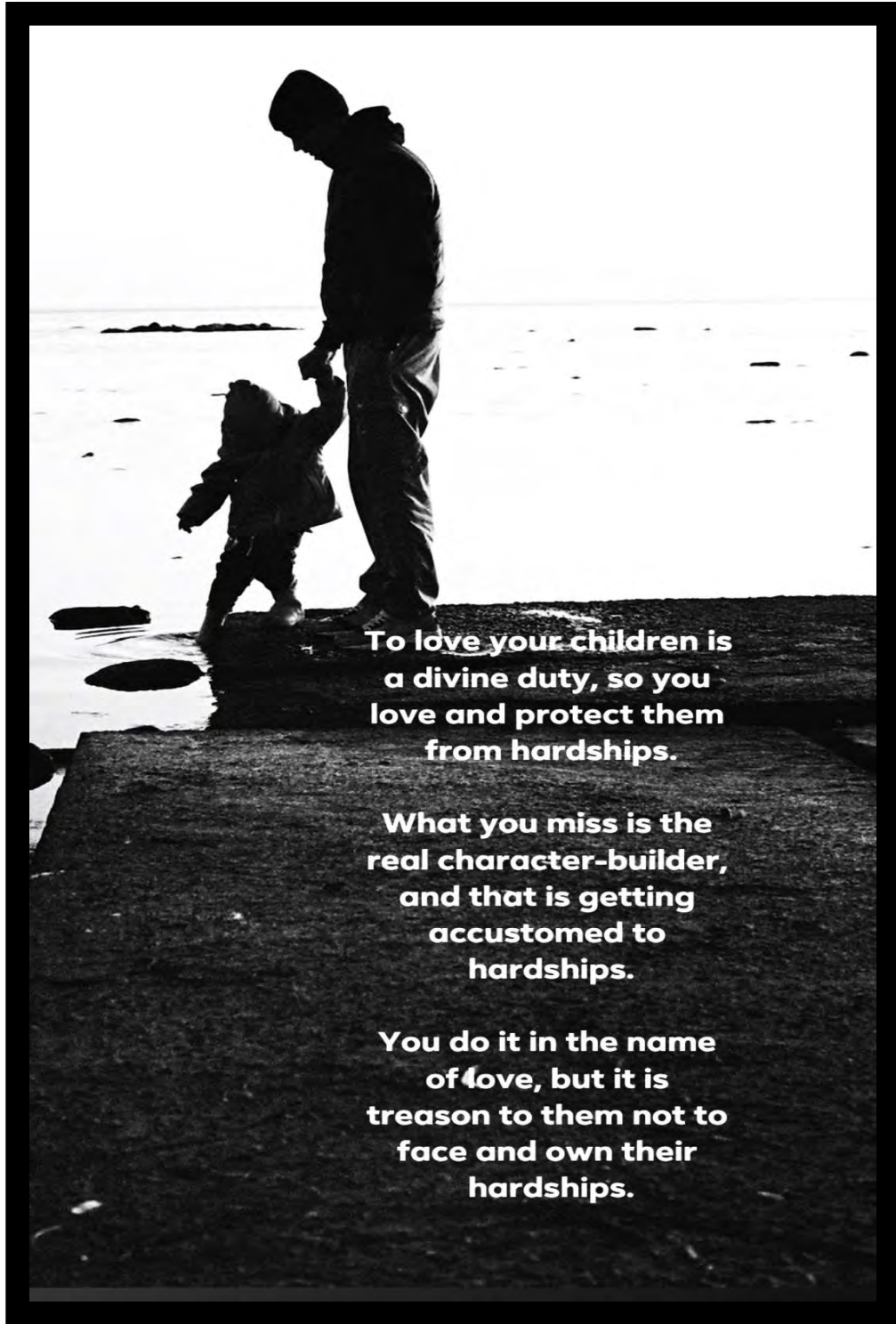
"...and be faithful to (your) covenant with Me, I will fulfill (My) covenant with you." ~Mohammed

Dirty Envelopes of Love



"The rose and the thorn, and sorrow and gladness are linked together." ~Saadi

Betraying the Children



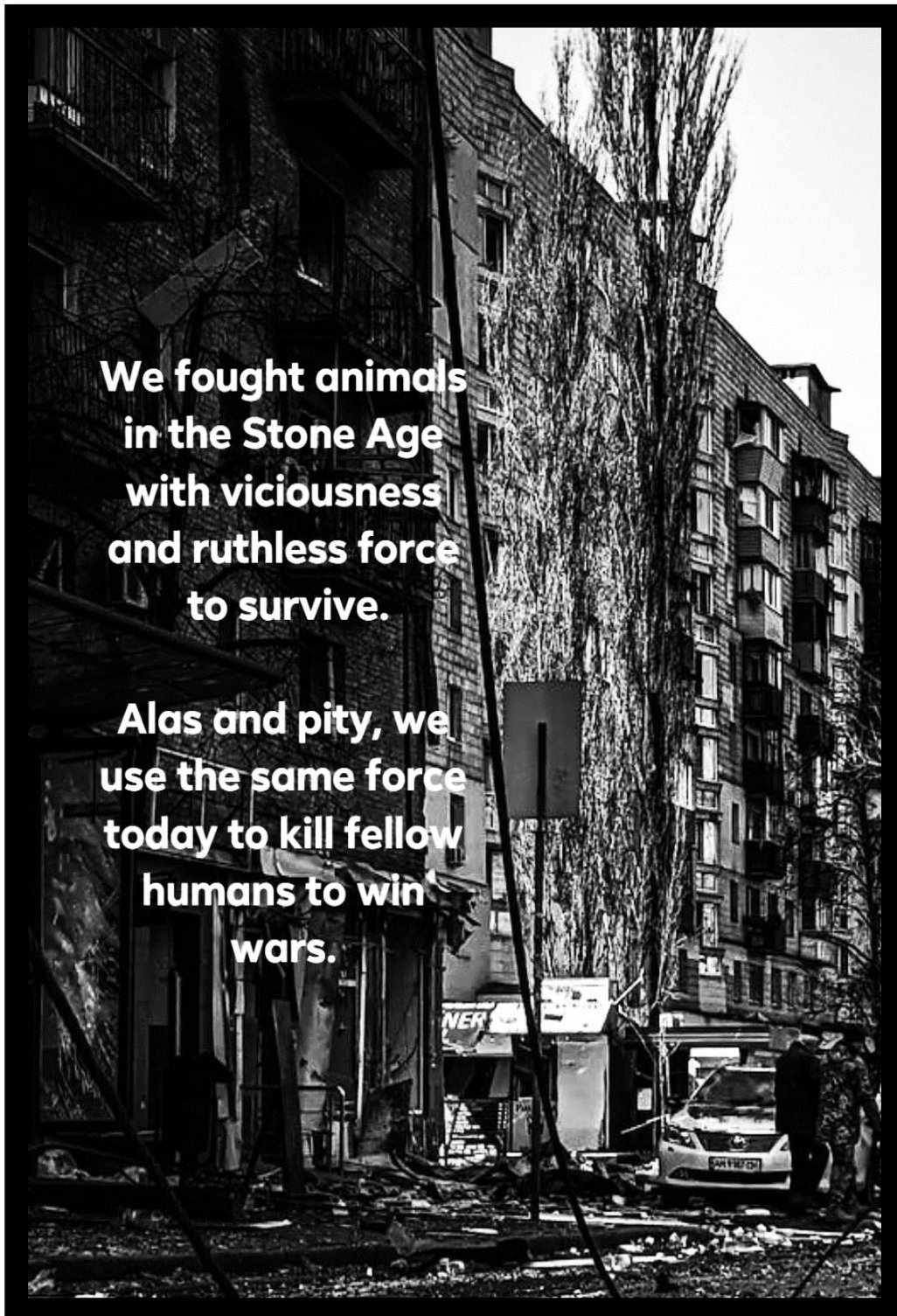
**To love your children is
a divine duty, so you
love and protect them
from hardships.**

**What you miss is the
real character-builder,
and that is getting
accustomed to
hardships.**

**You do it in the name
of love, but it is
treason to them not to
face and own their
hardships.**

*"Your legs will get heavy and tired. Then comes a moment of feeling the wings
you've grown, lifting." ~Rumi*

Brutality of Killing Humans

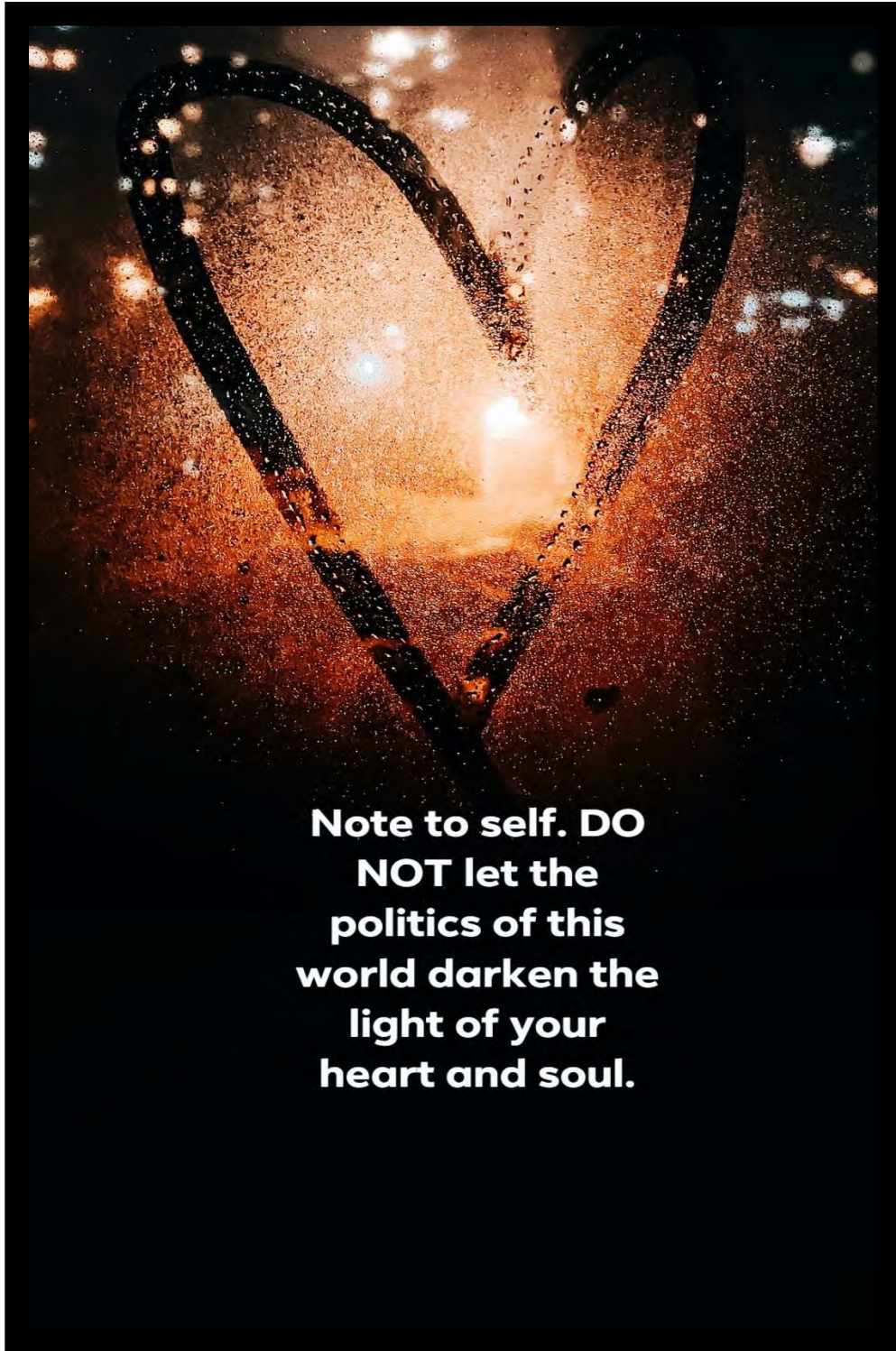


**We fought animals
in the Stone Age
with viciousness
and ruthless force
to survive.**

**Alas and pity, we
use the same force
today to kill fellow
humans to win
wars.**

"War ends only when people love each other." ~Buddha

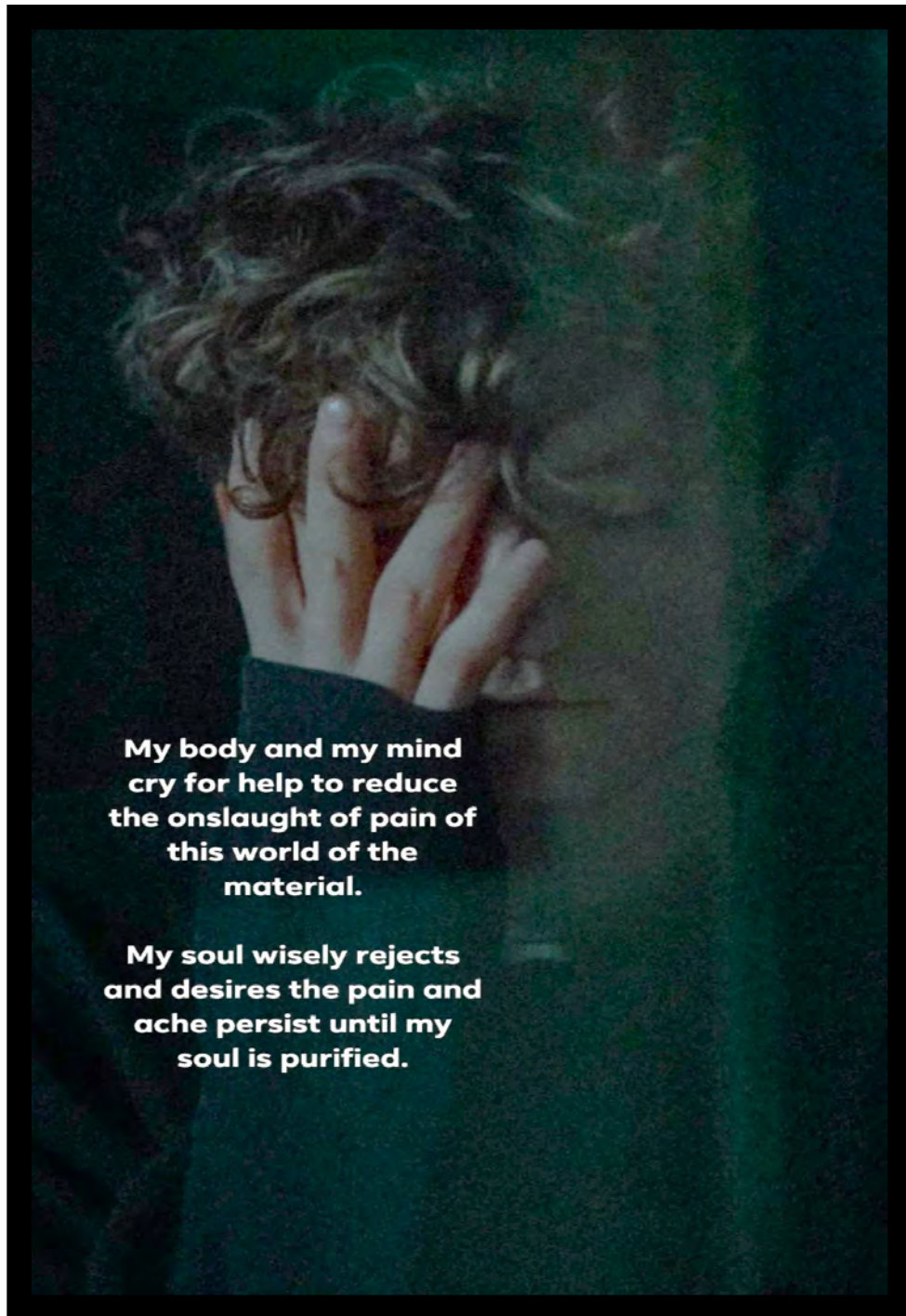
Note to Self



**Note to self. DO
NOT let the
politics of this
world darken the
light of your
heart and soul.**

"Put your thoughts to sleep, do not let them cast a shadow over the moon of your heart. Let go of thinking." ~Rumi

Purifying My Soul

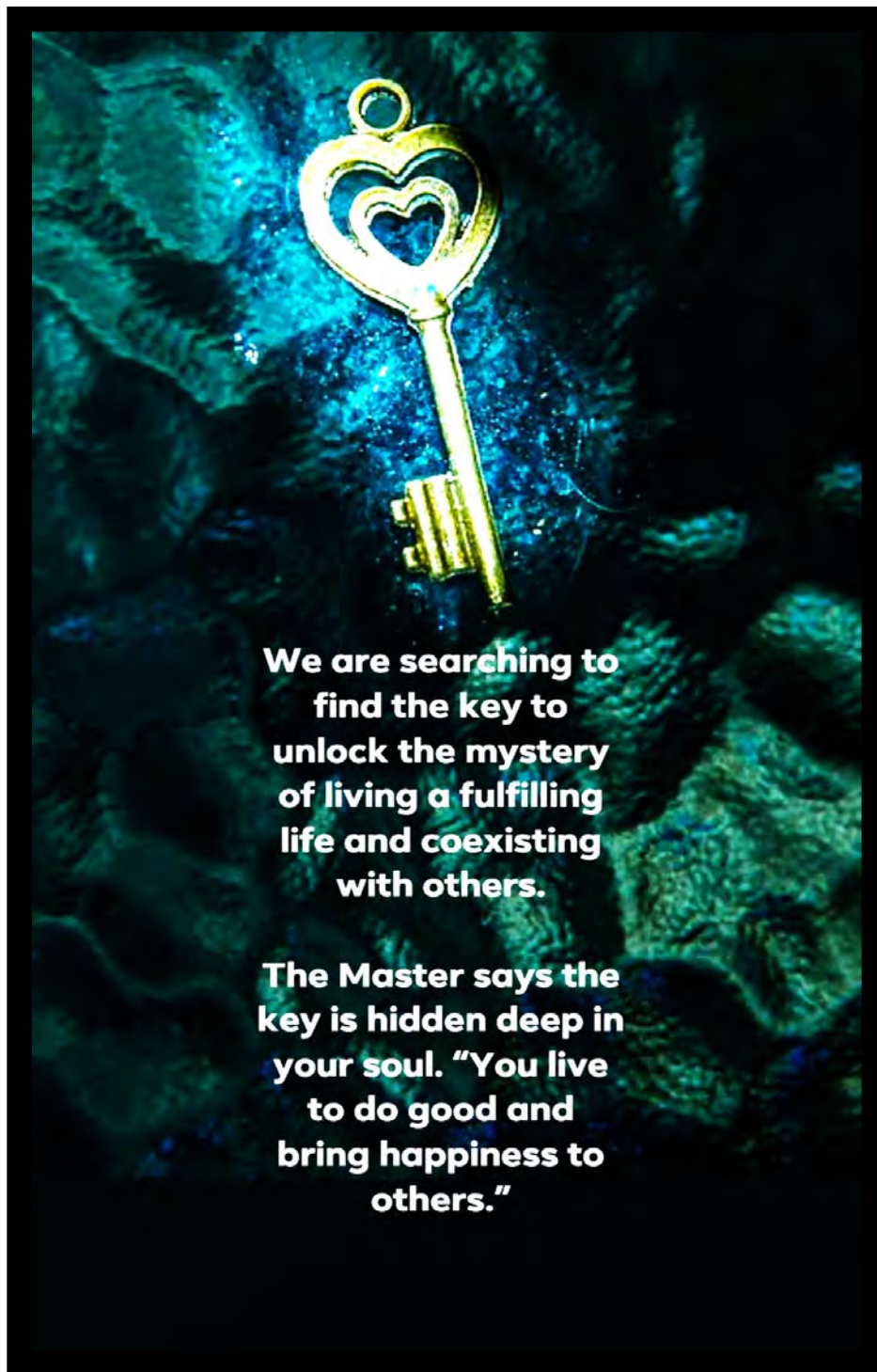


**My body and my mind
cry for help to reduce
the onslaught of pain of
this world of the
material.**

**My soul wisely rejects
and desires the pain and
ache persist until my
soul is purified.**

“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.” ~James 1:12

The Key is To Do Good

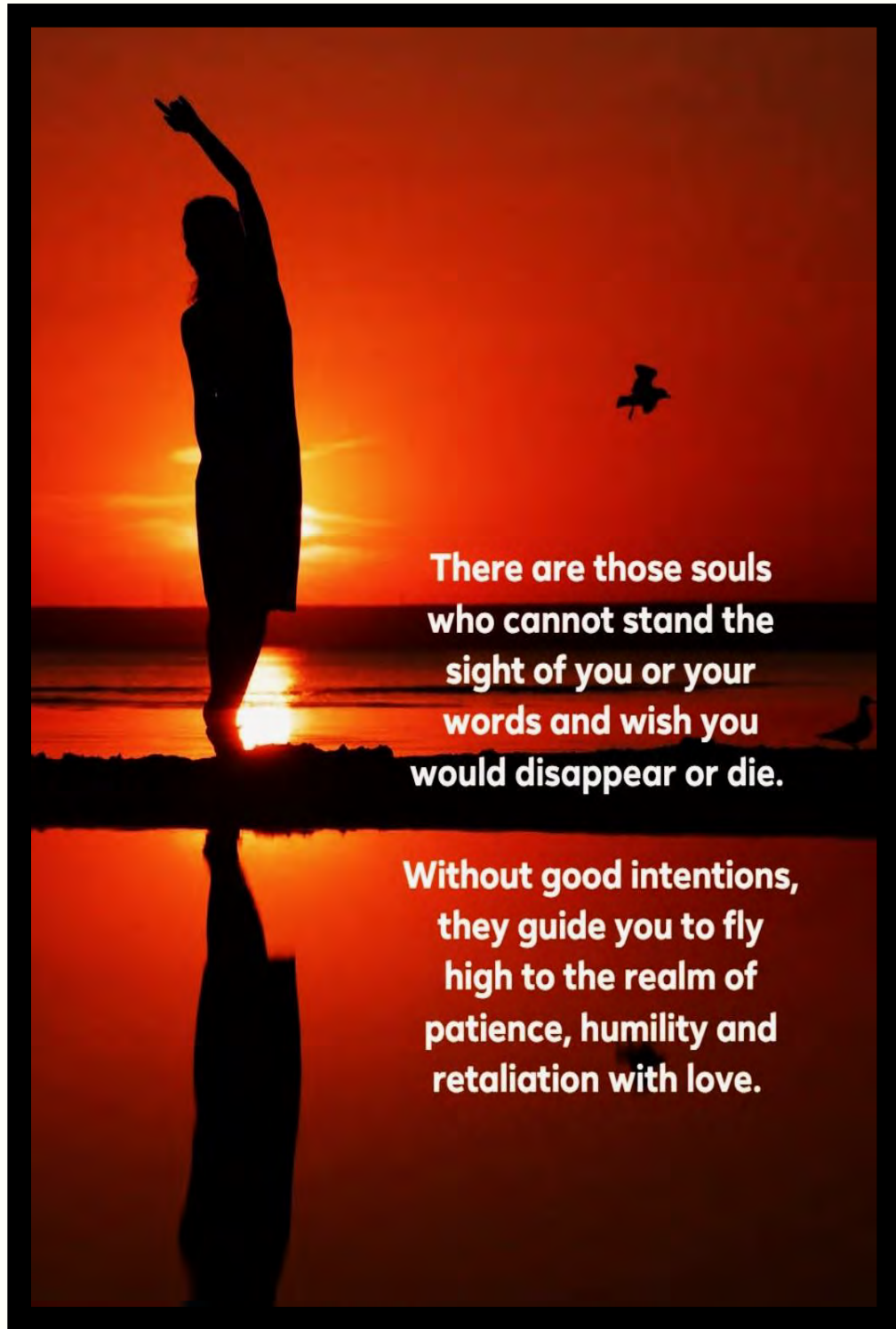


**We are searching to
find the key to
unlock the mystery
of living a fulfilling
life and coexisting
with others.**

**The Master says the
key is hidden deep in
your soul. "You live
to do good and
bring happiness to
others."**

For a day, just for one day, talk about that which disturbs no one and bring some peace into those beautiful eyes. ~Hafez

Nurturers of My Soul



**There are those souls
who cannot stand the
sight of you or your
words and wish you
would disappear or die.**

**Without good intentions,
they guide you to fly
high to the realm of
patience, humility and
retaliation with love.**

*"You will never become angry or impatient if you love them for the sake of
God." ~Abdu'l-Bahá*

Stopped the Foolish Wish



**Stopped pouring
my heart and soul
through my
ramblings, wishing
to make a
difference.**

**What a foolish
dream it was when
sincere feelings
are destroyed
every day with
indifference**

"You live to do good and to bring happiness to others." ~Abdu'l-Baha