

*Mystic Ramblings  
and  
Daydreaming*

*Badi Shams*

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*Daydreaming*

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*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***  
***Badishams.com***



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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.**



*“The wound is the place where the Light enters you.” ~Rumi*

# 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.**

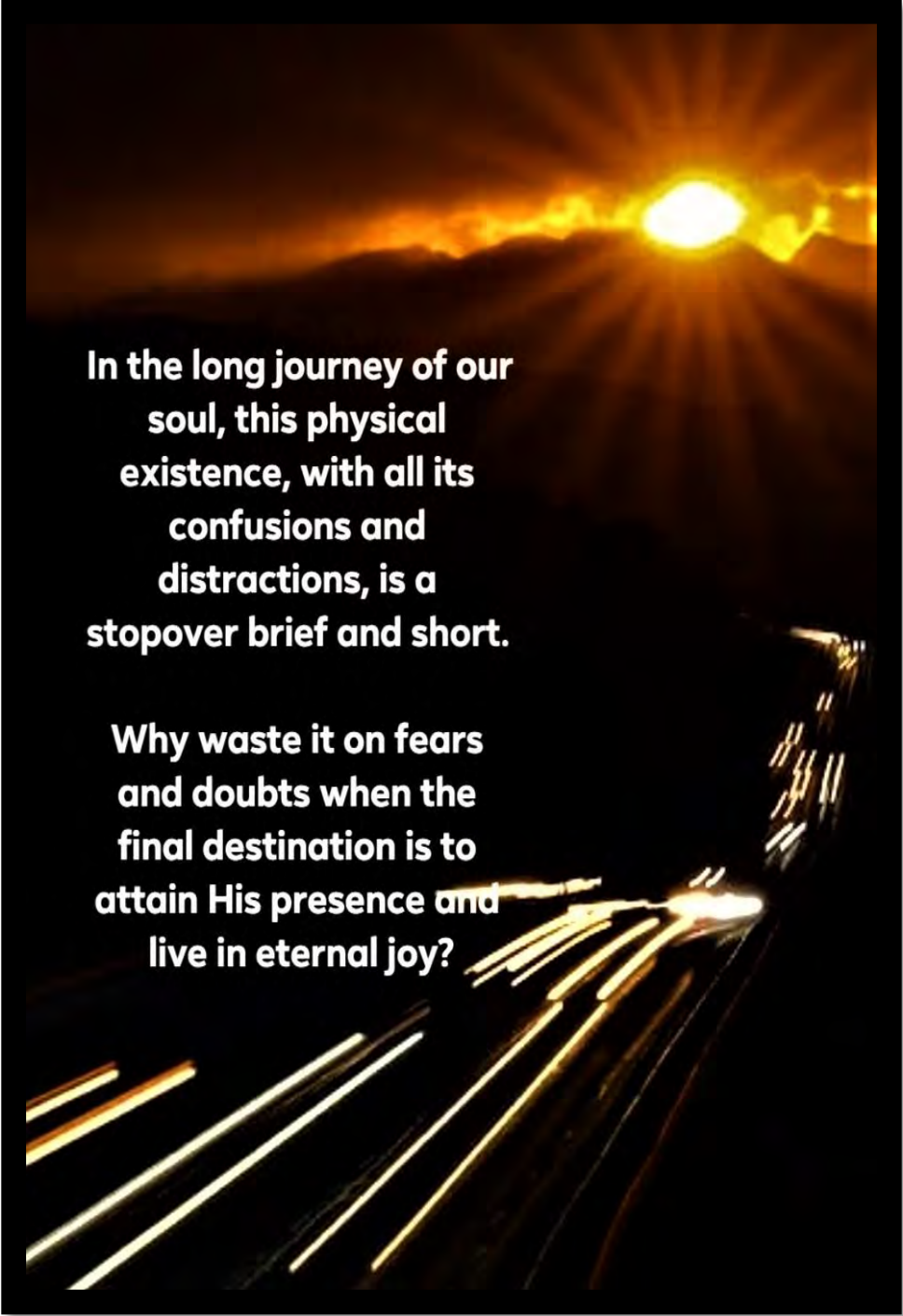
**You can not build a relationship with selfish motives and insincere intentions and wish it to shine.**

**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*



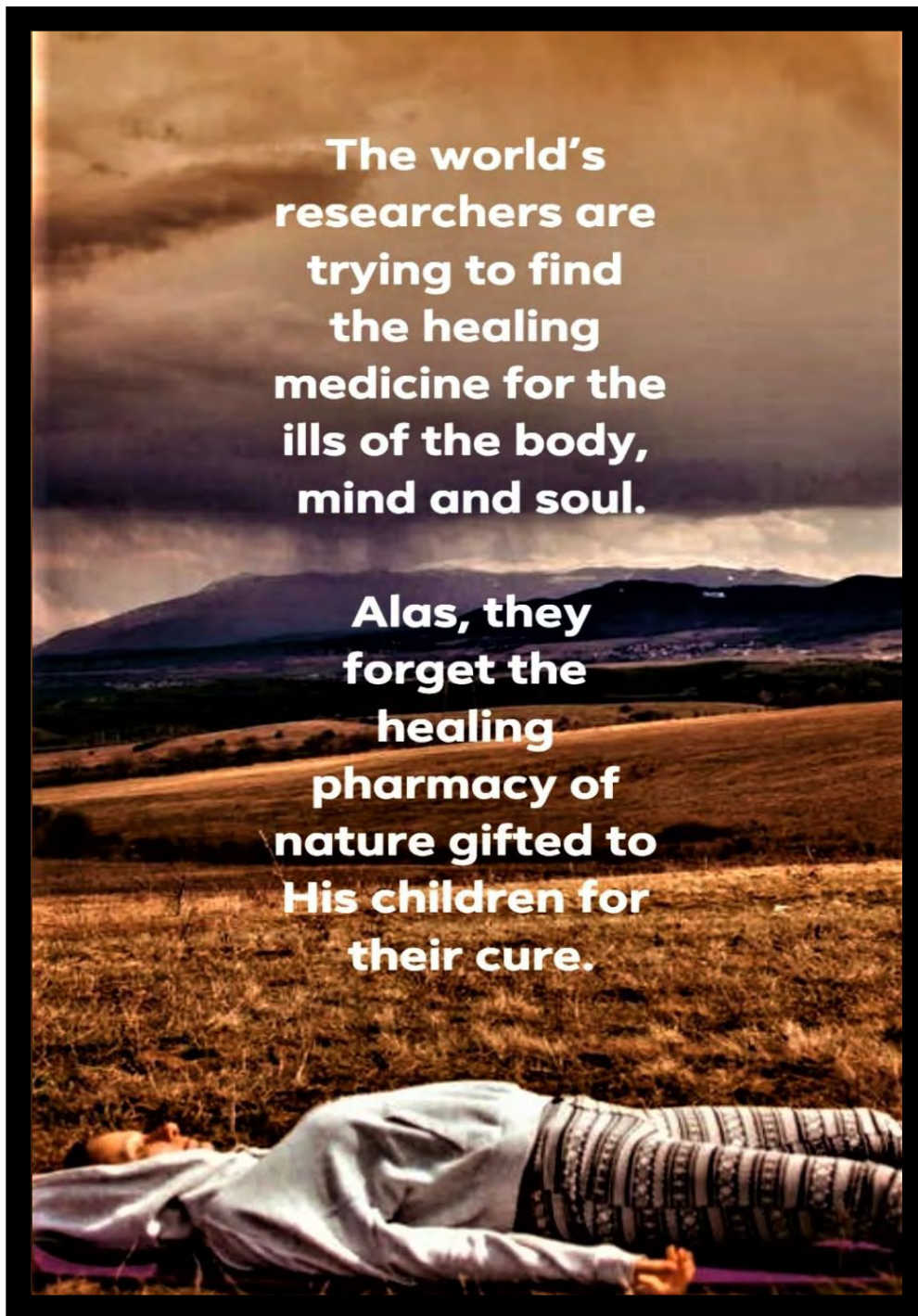
Oh, the agony,  
the misery of my  
tongue trying to  
garment the  
words of my  
soul.

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*



**The world's  
researchers are  
trying to find  
the healing  
medicine for the  
ills of the body,  
mind and soul.**

**Alas, they  
forget the  
healing  
pharmacy of  
nature gifted to  
His children for  
their cure.**

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



# *Dark Road*

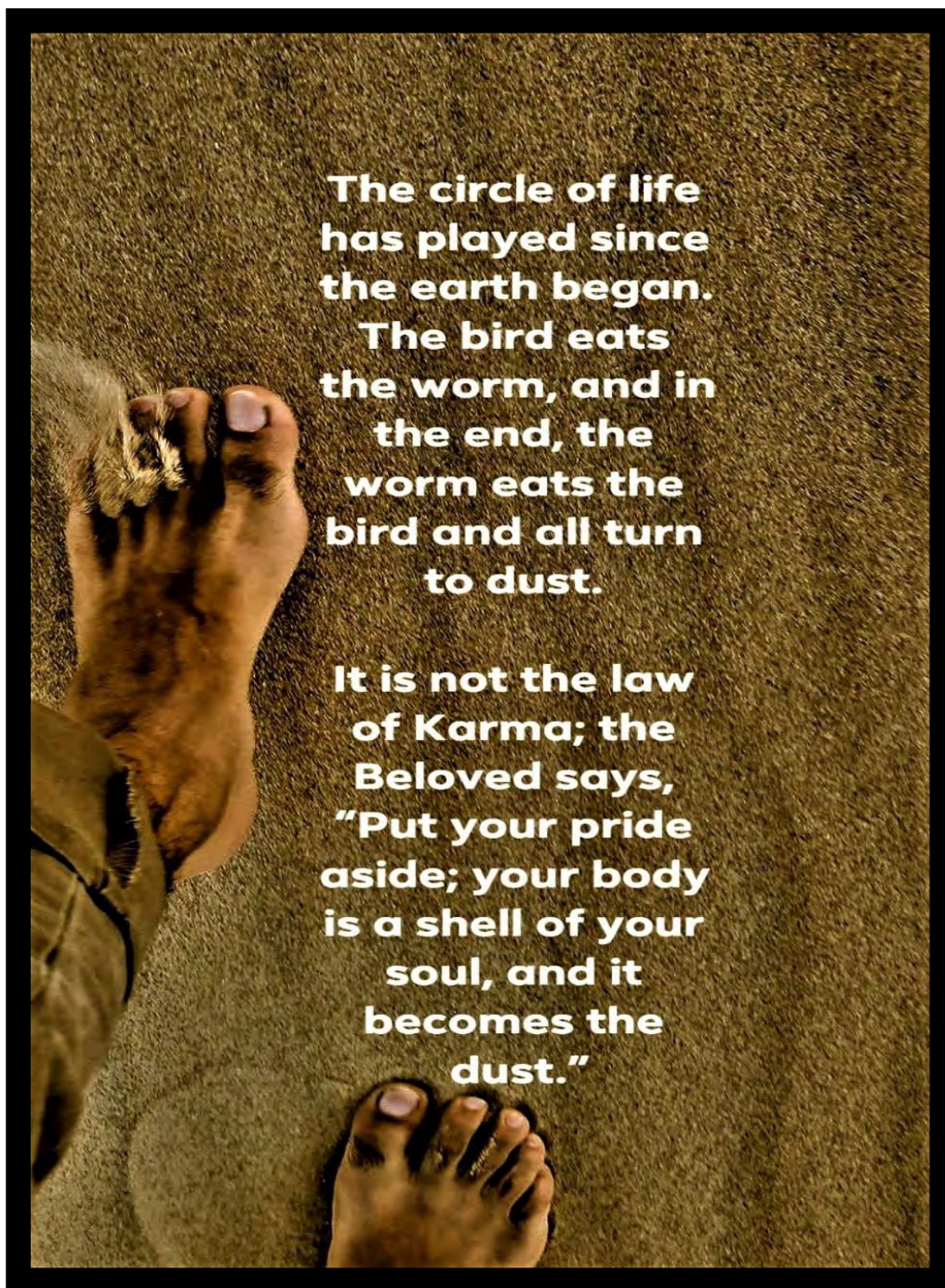


**I journeyed safely  
on the dark and  
stormy spiritual  
road with no map.**

**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



**The circle of life  
has played since  
the earth began.**

**The bird eats  
the worm, and in  
the end, the  
worm eats the  
bird and all turn  
to dust.**

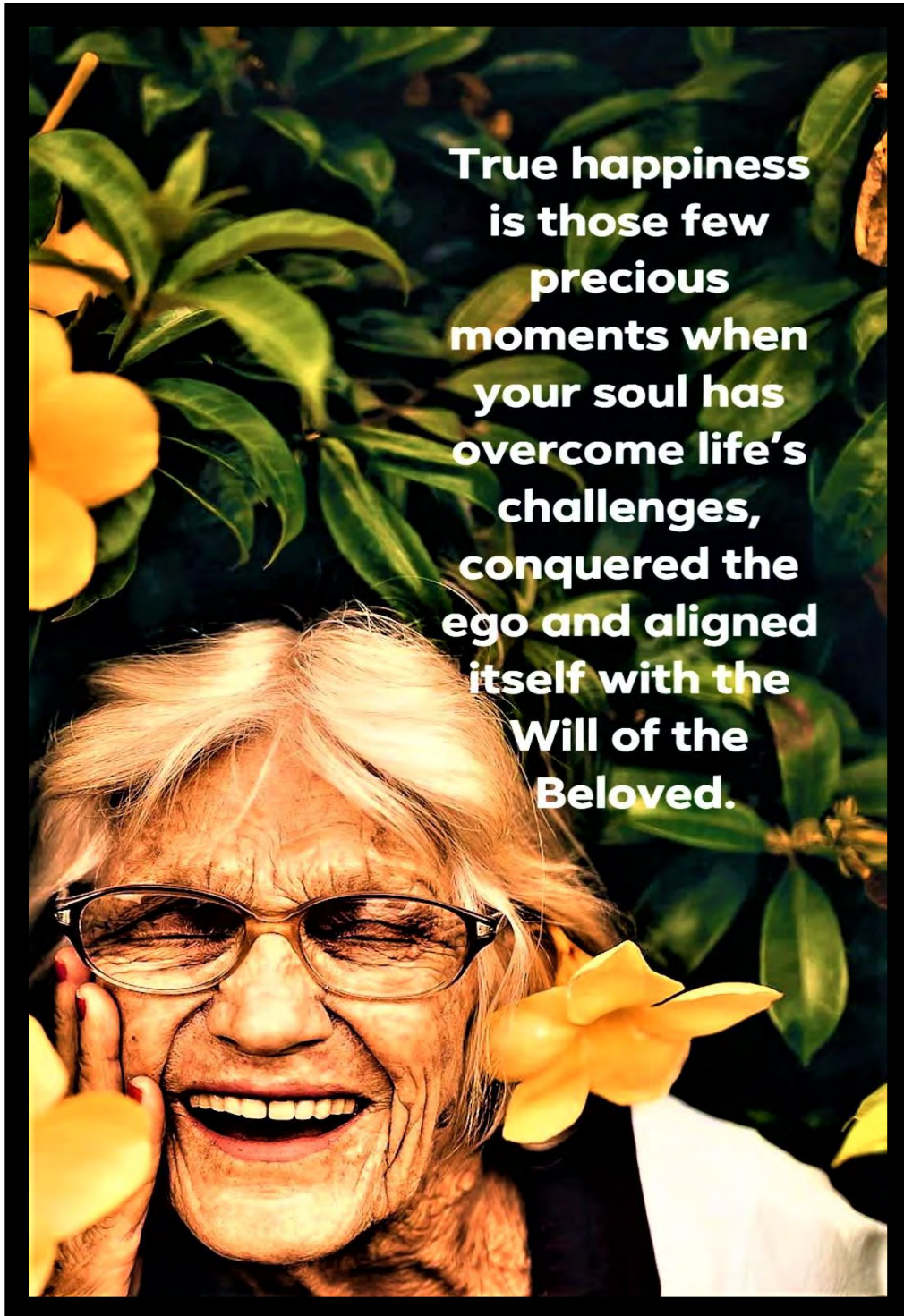
**It is not the law  
of Karma; the  
Beloved says,  
"Put your pride  
aside; your body  
is a shell of your  
soul, and it  
becomes the  
dust."**

*"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*

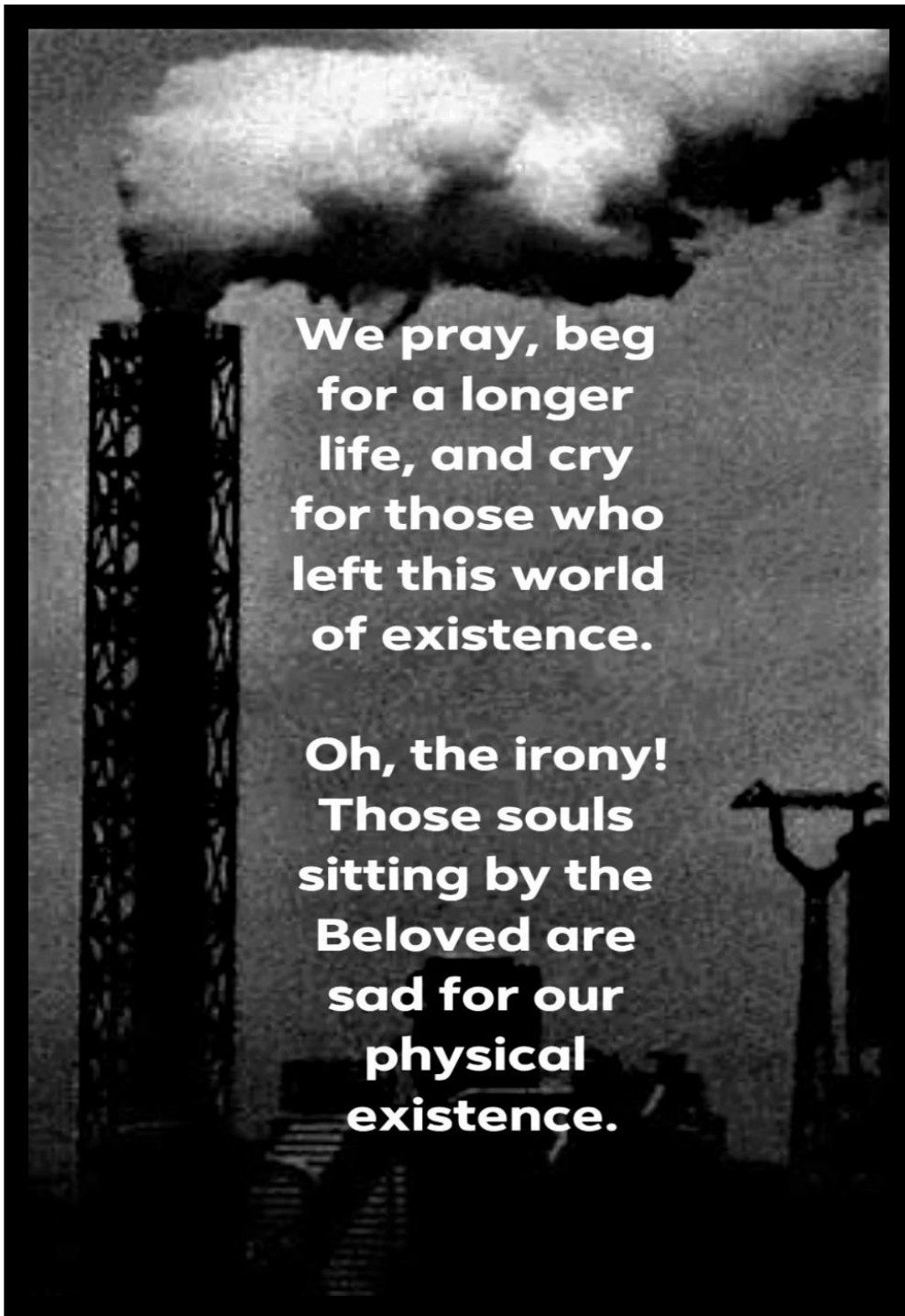


# *True Happiness*



*“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*



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



# *Everlasting Gift*



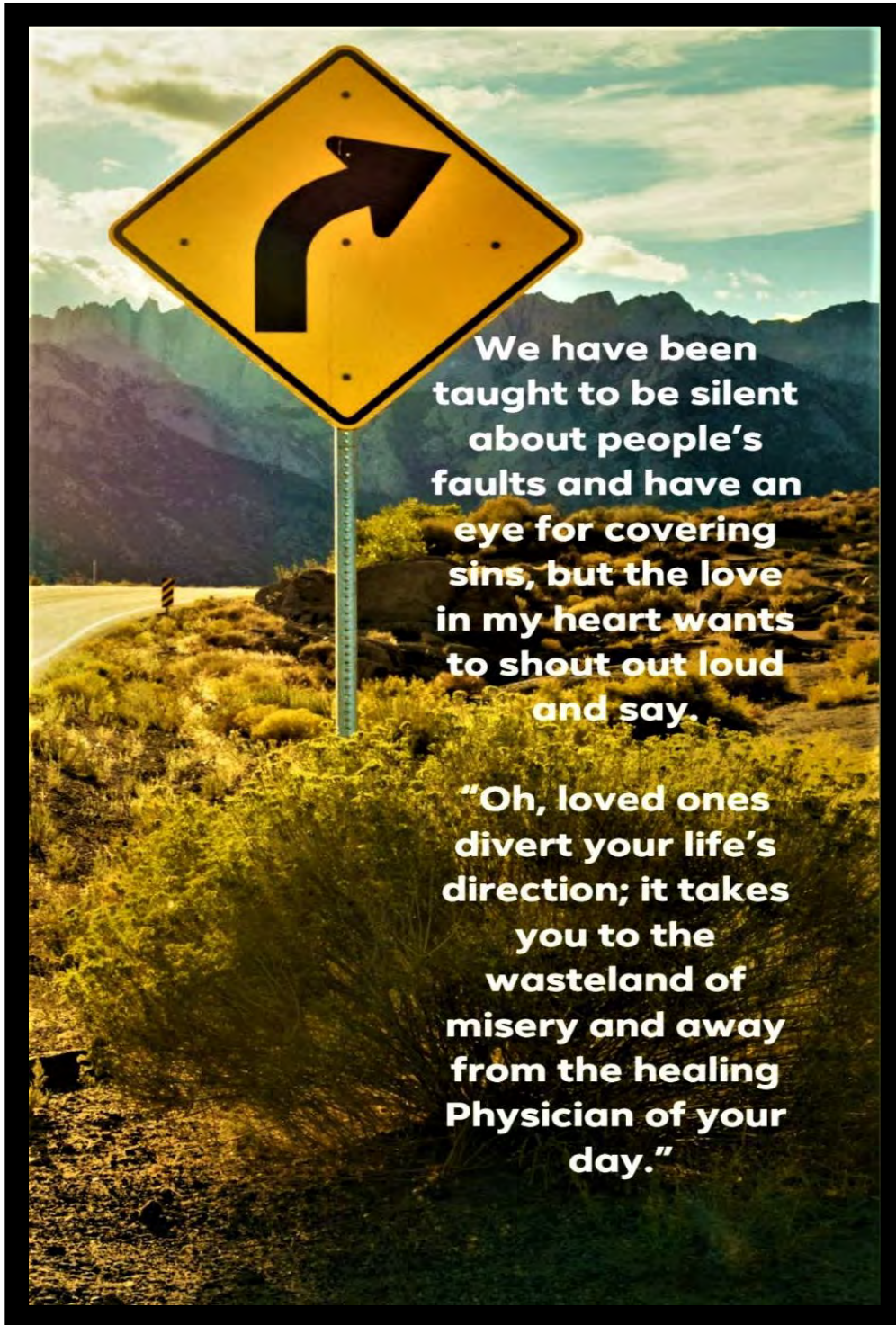
**The joys of  
material gifts  
are short-lived,  
like vapours on  
a hot summer  
day.**

**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*



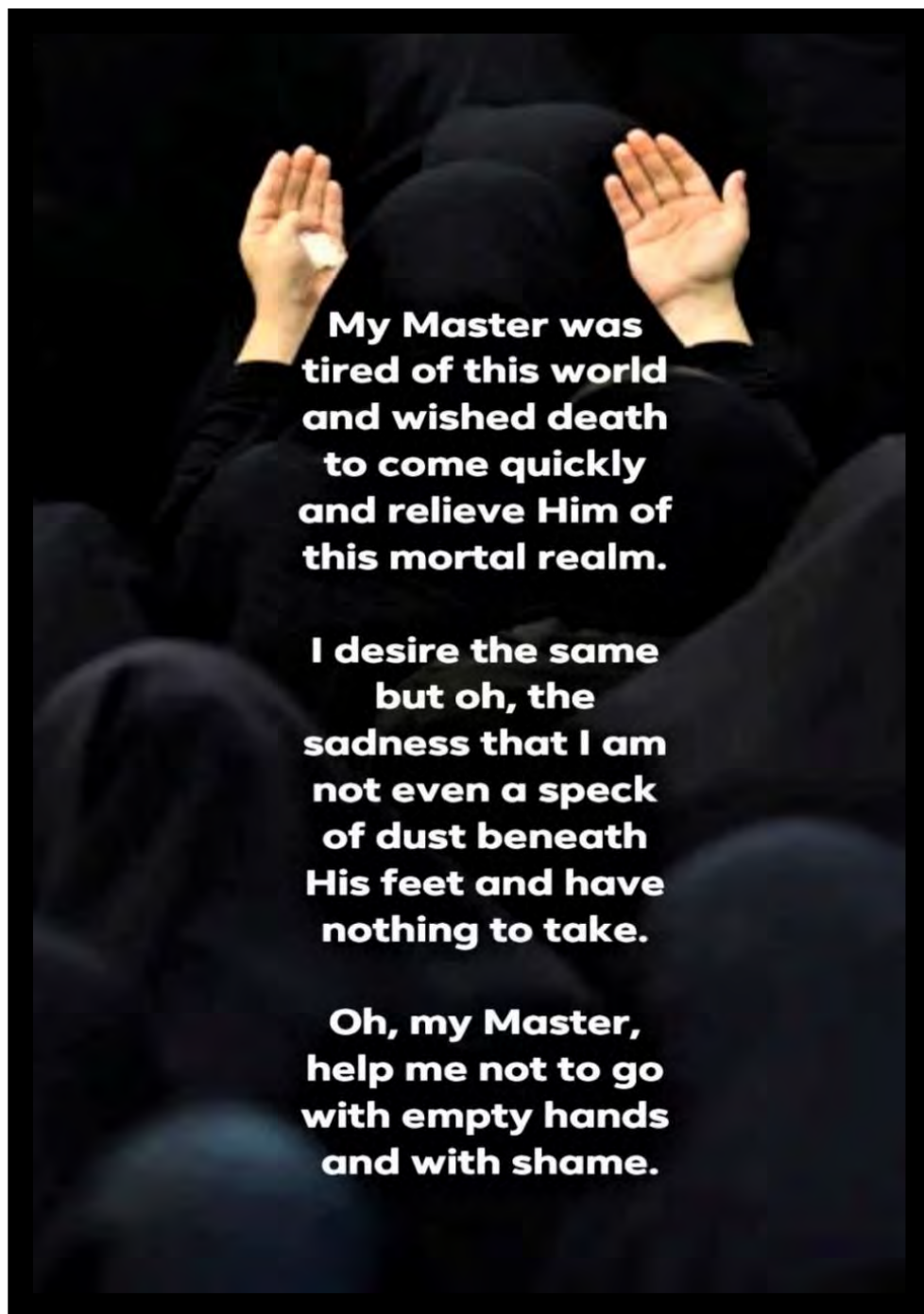
**We have been taught to be silent about people's faults and have an eye for covering sins, but the love in my heart wants to shout out loud and say.**

**"Oh, loved ones divert your life's direction; it takes you to the wasteland of misery and away from the healing Physician of your day."**

*"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.**

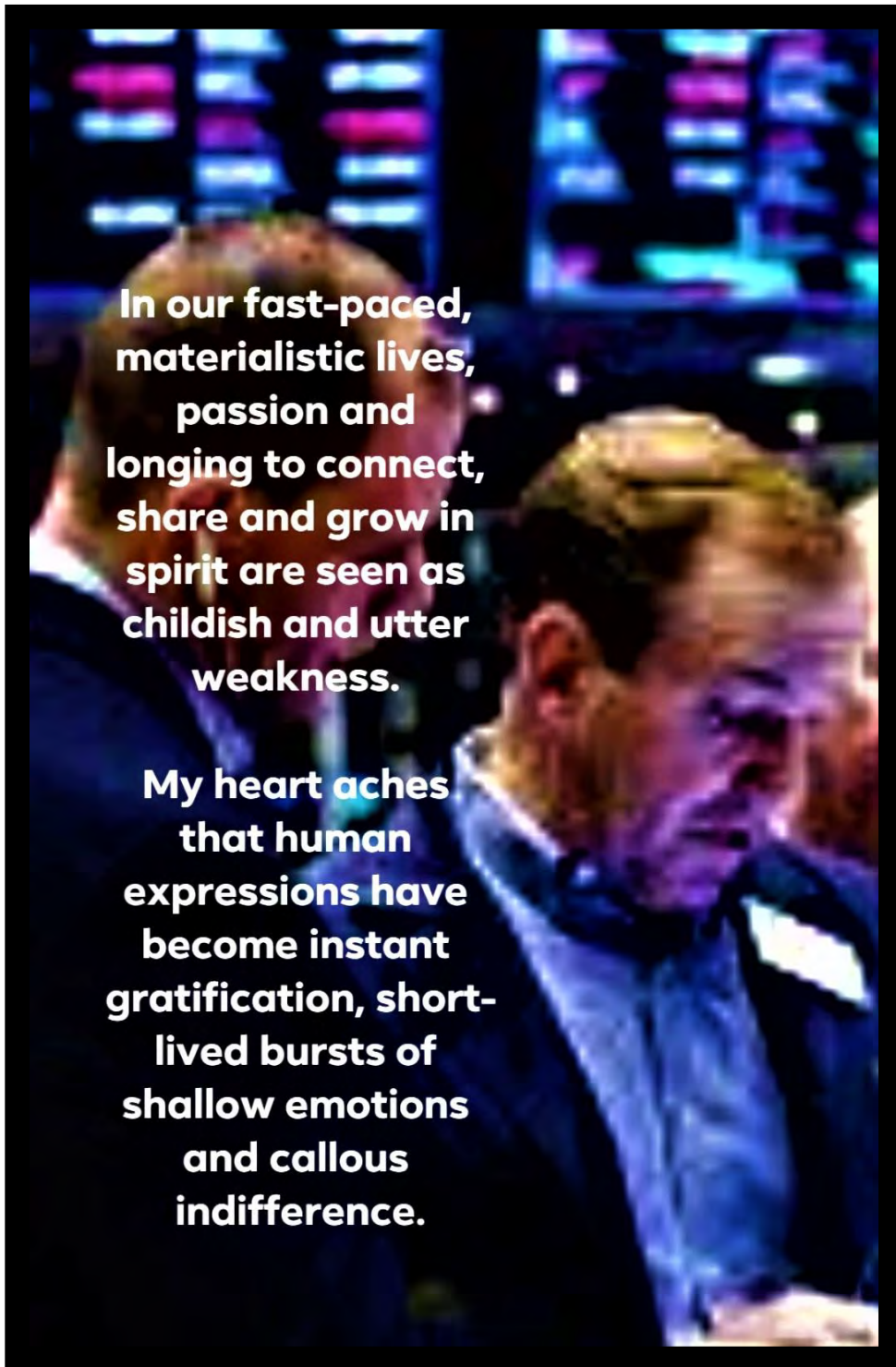
**Oh, my Master,  
help me not to go  
with empty hands  
and with shame.**

*“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*

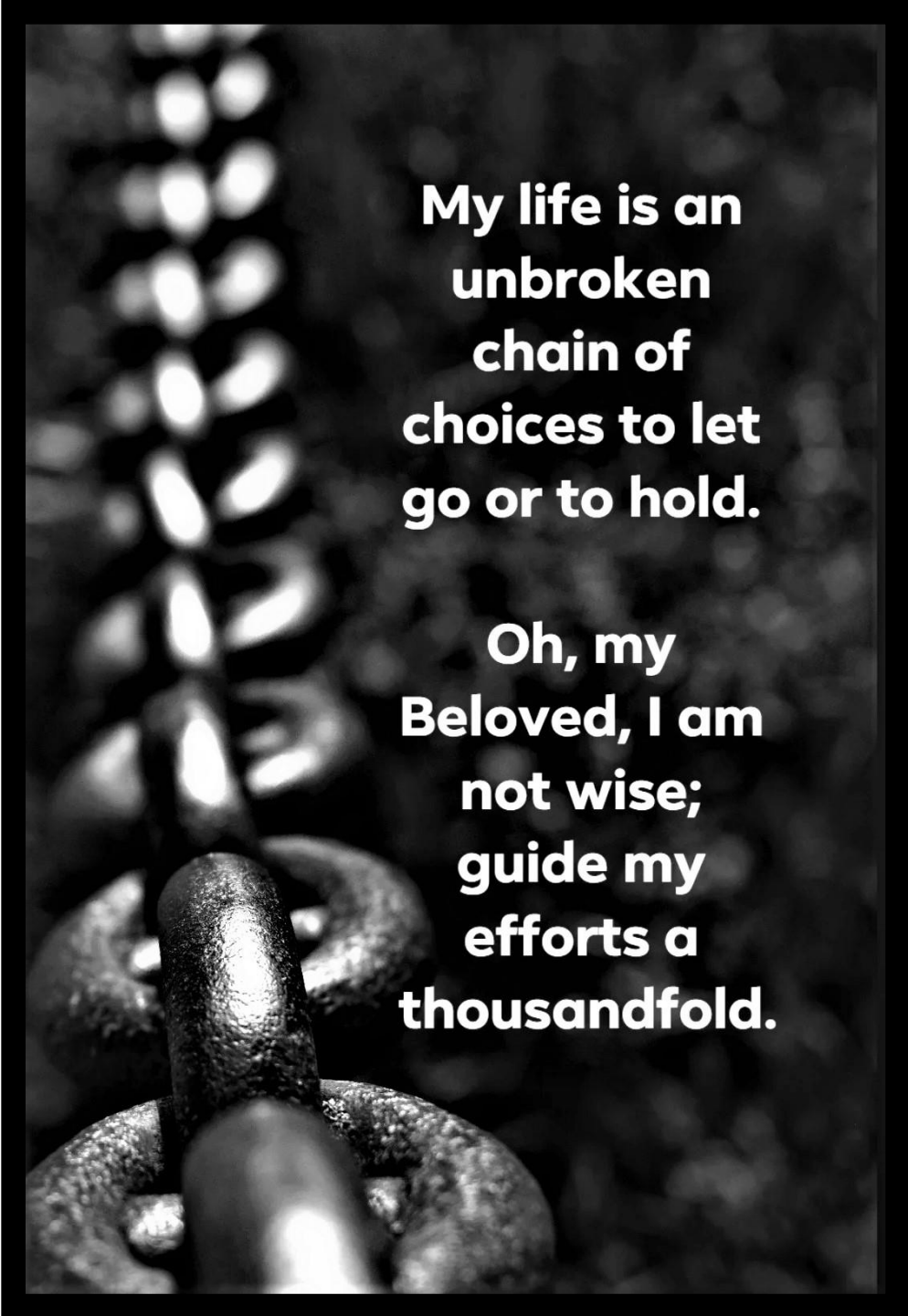


# *Lost Friends*



*“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.**

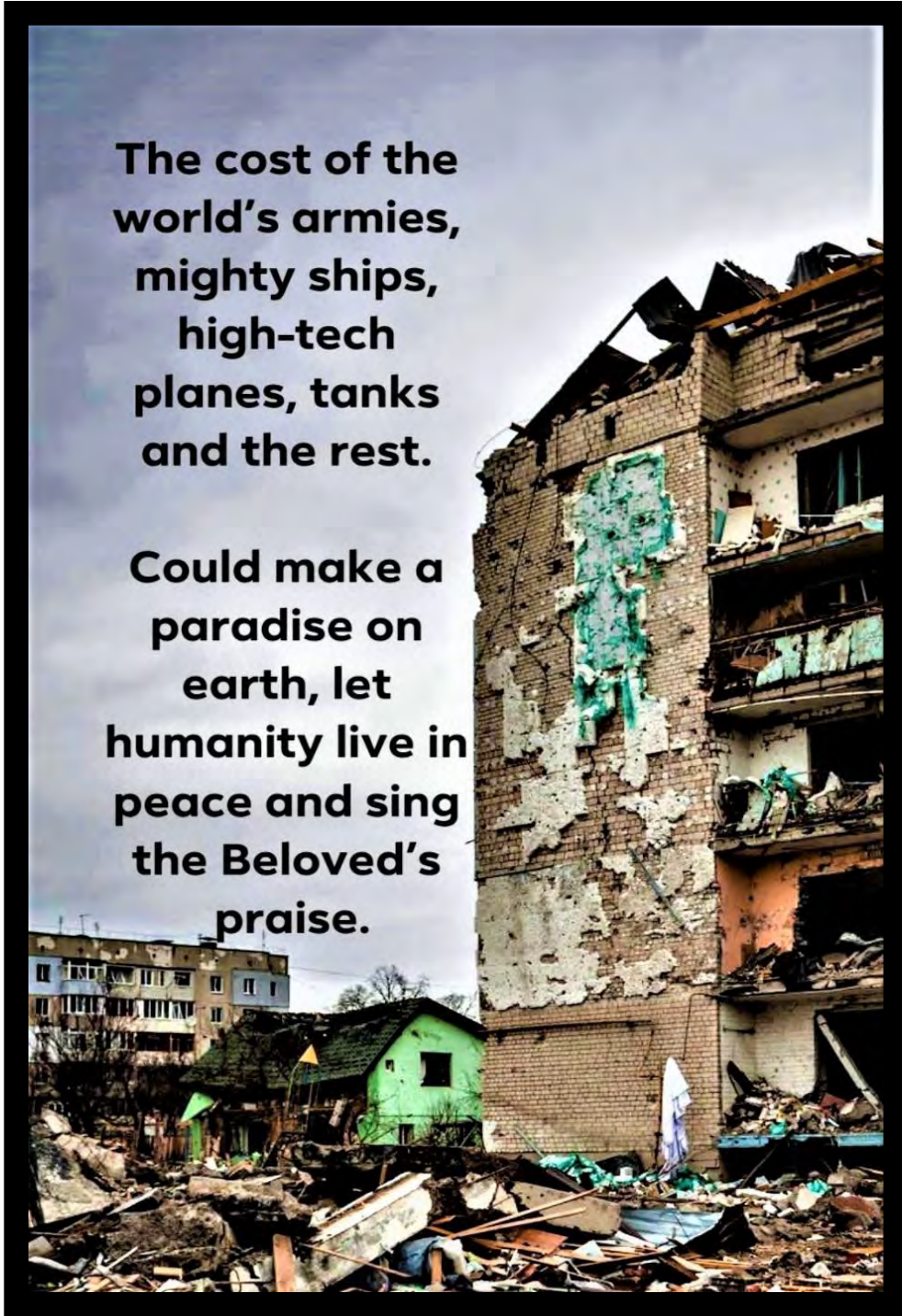
**Oh, my  
Beloved, I am  
not wise;  
guide my  
efforts a  
thousandfold.**

*“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 Beloved  
laments: "The  
vitality of men's  
belief in God is  
dying out in every  
land."**

**Restore your faith  
in Me, O My  
children;  
humanity's  
salvation is in your  
hands.**

*"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.” ~Mathew 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

*"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?**

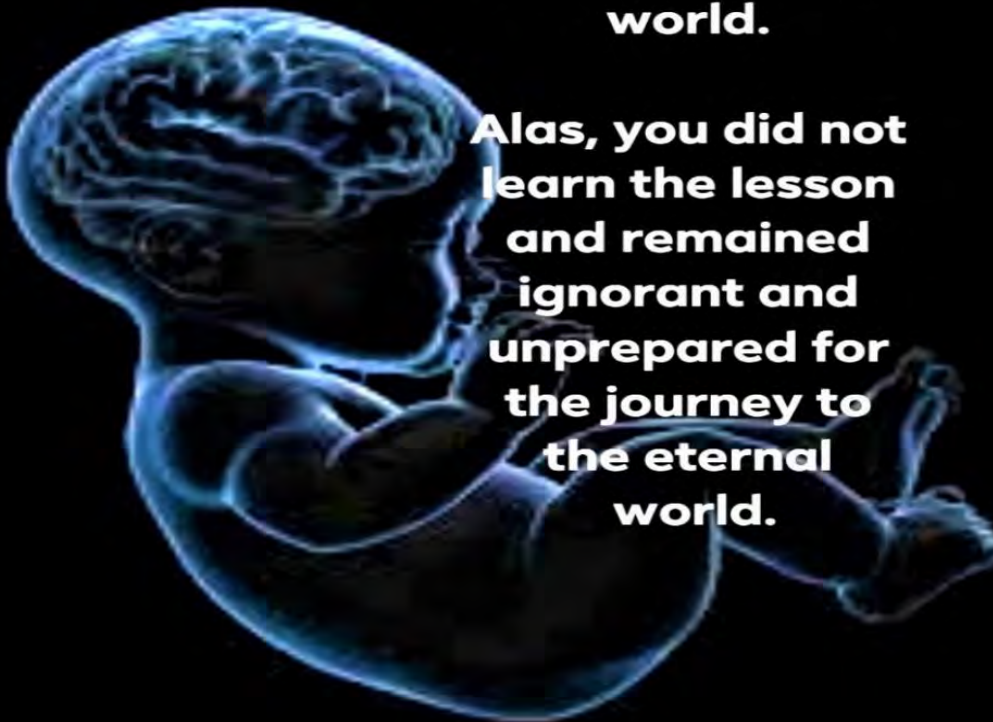
**Your friendship is  
that radiating  
diamond; how can I  
express this to you  
in mere words?**



*“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.**

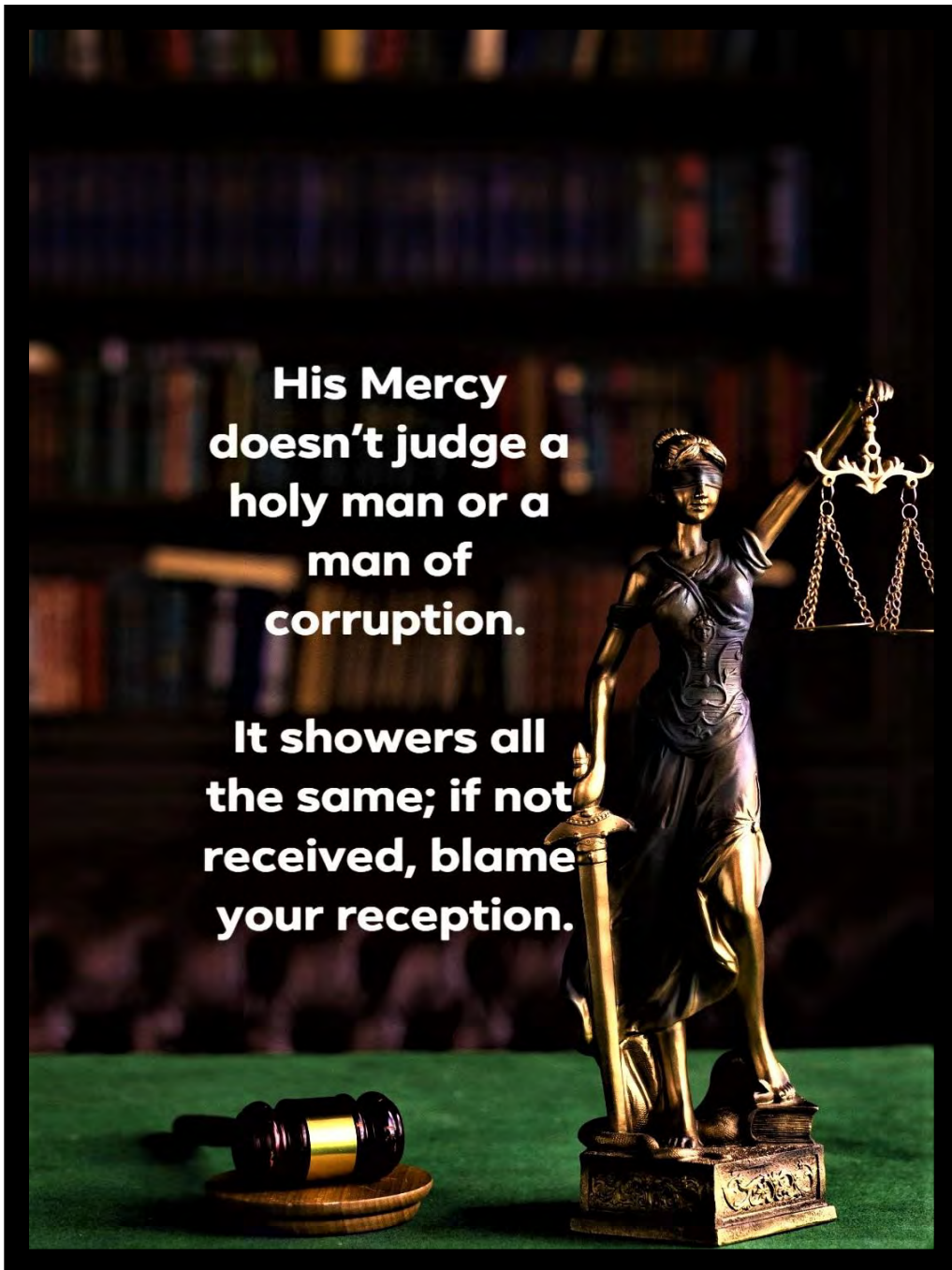


**Alas, you did not  
learn the lesson  
and remained  
ignorant and  
unprepared for  
the journey to  
the eternal  
world.**

*“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*



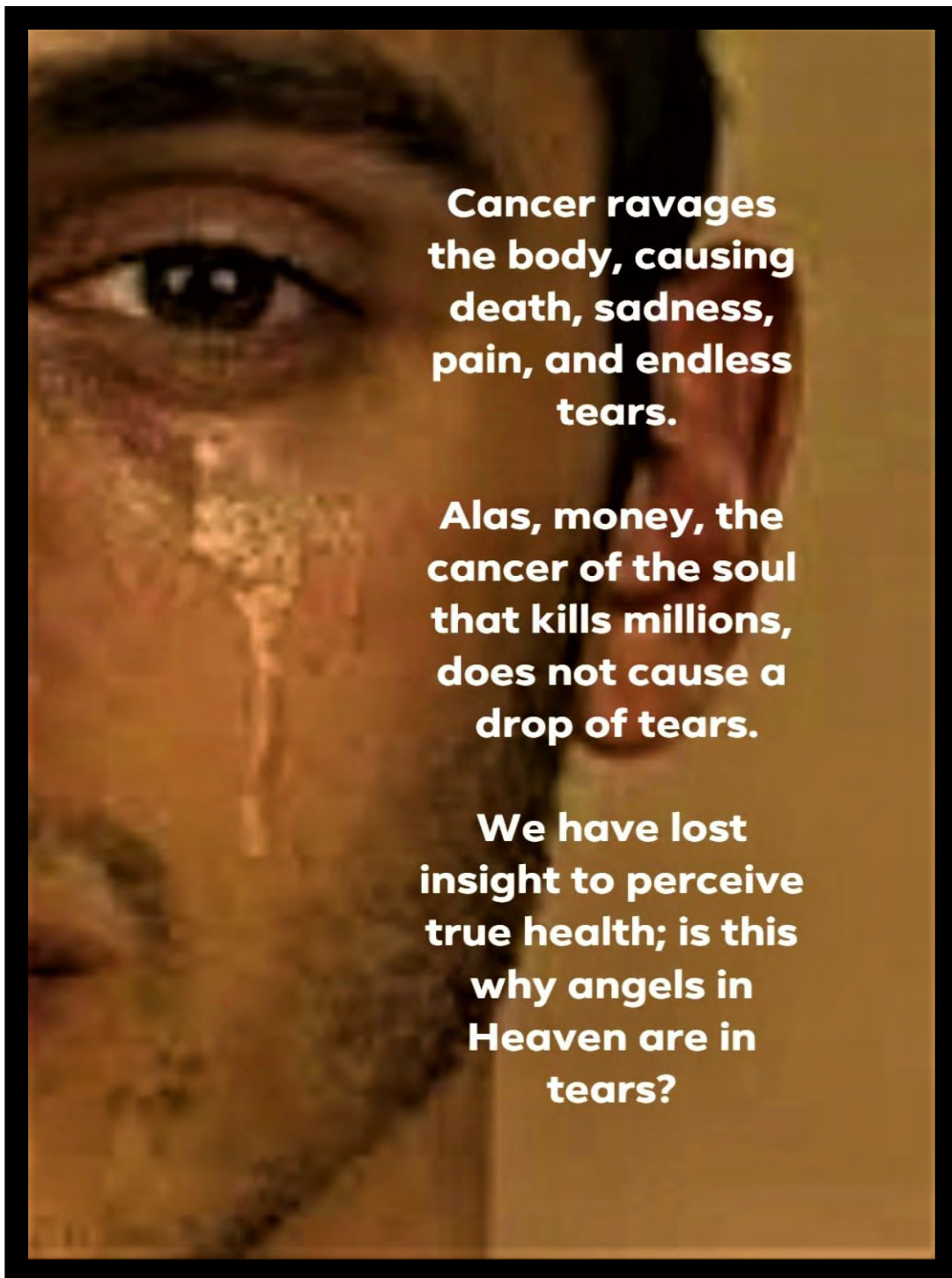
**His Mercy  
doesn't judge a  
holy man or a  
man of  
corruption.**

**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



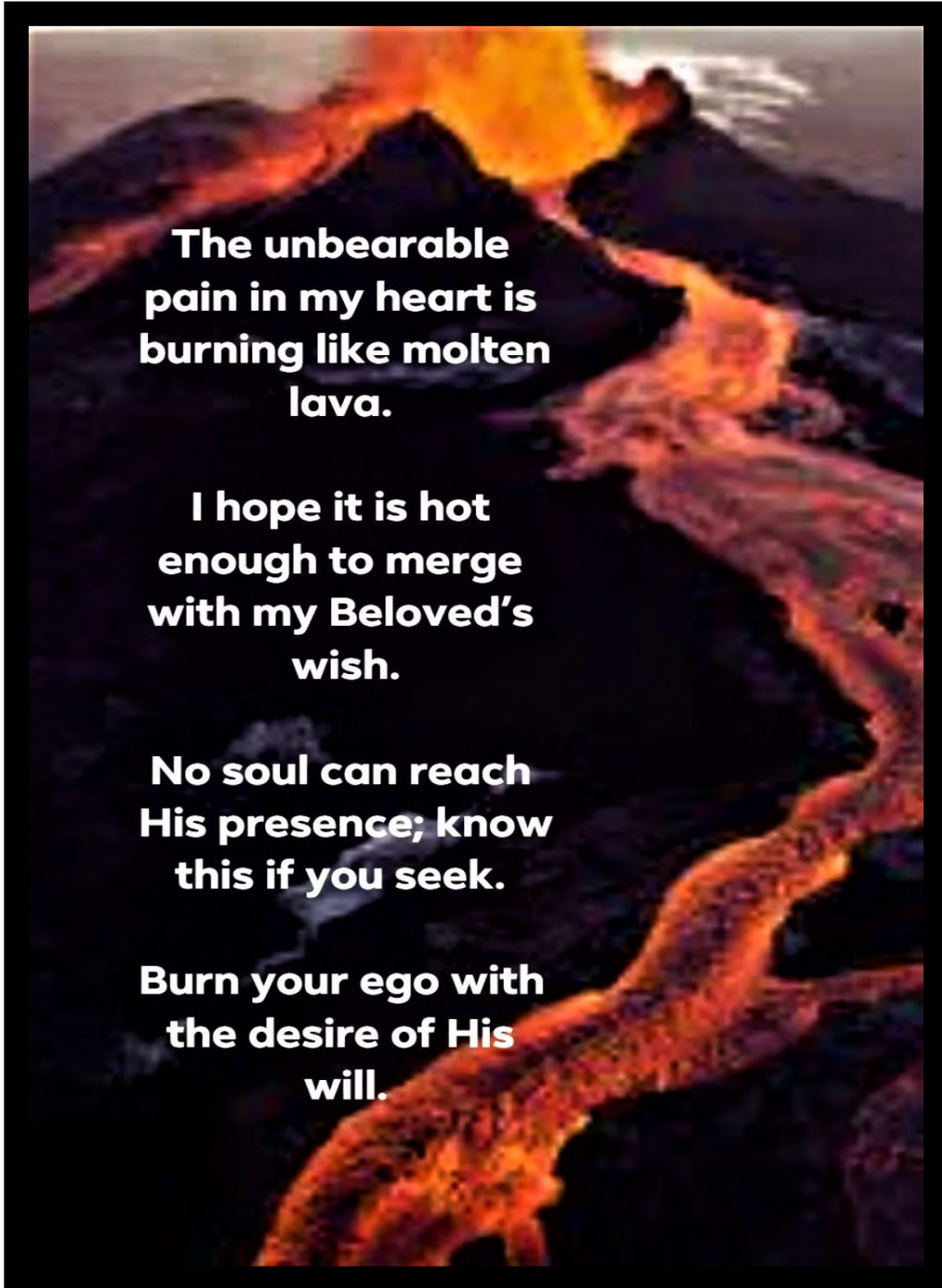
**Cancer ravages  
the body, causing  
death, sadness,  
pain, and endless  
tears.**

**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.**

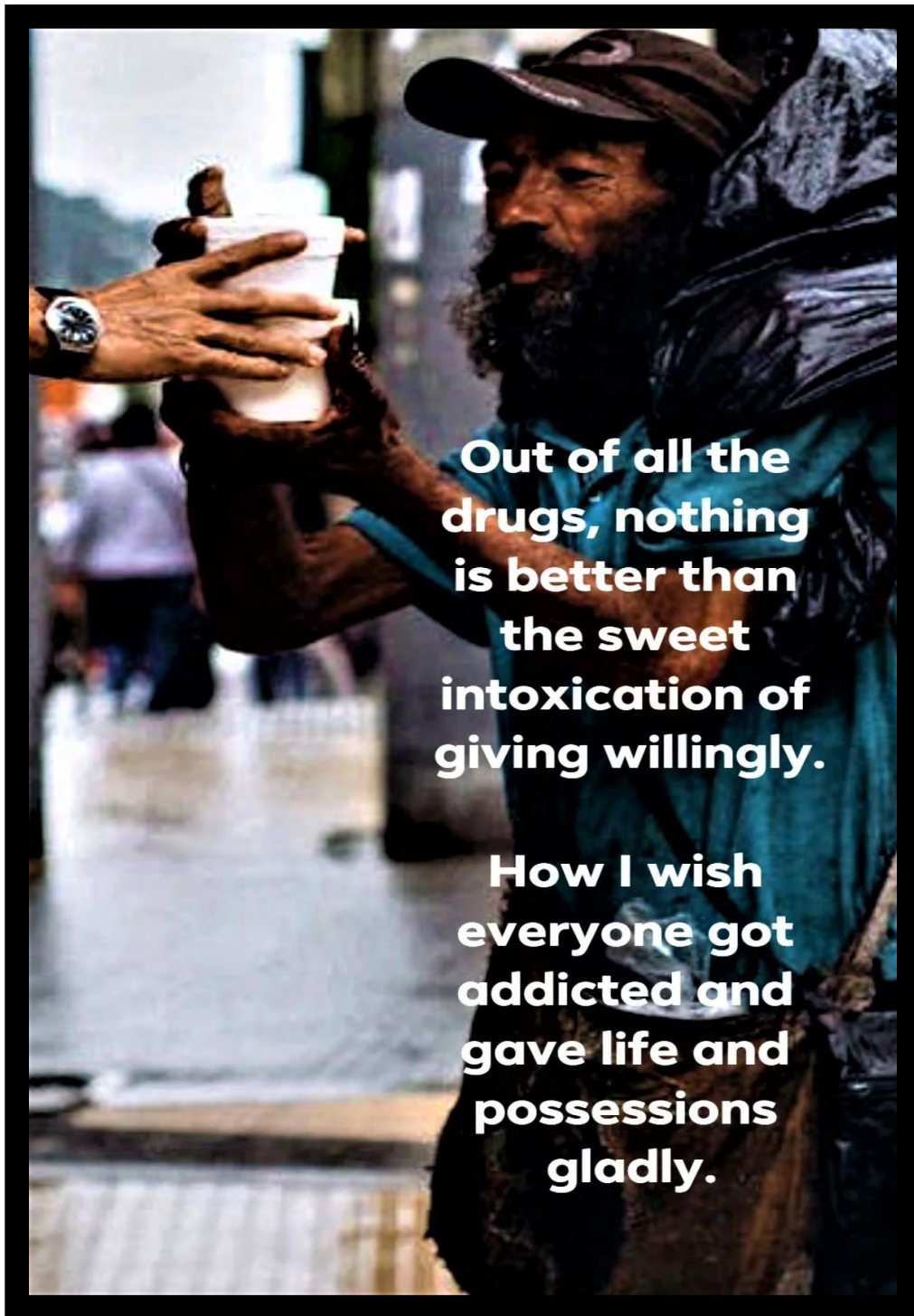
**I hope it is hot  
enough to merge  
with my Beloved's  
wish.**

**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*



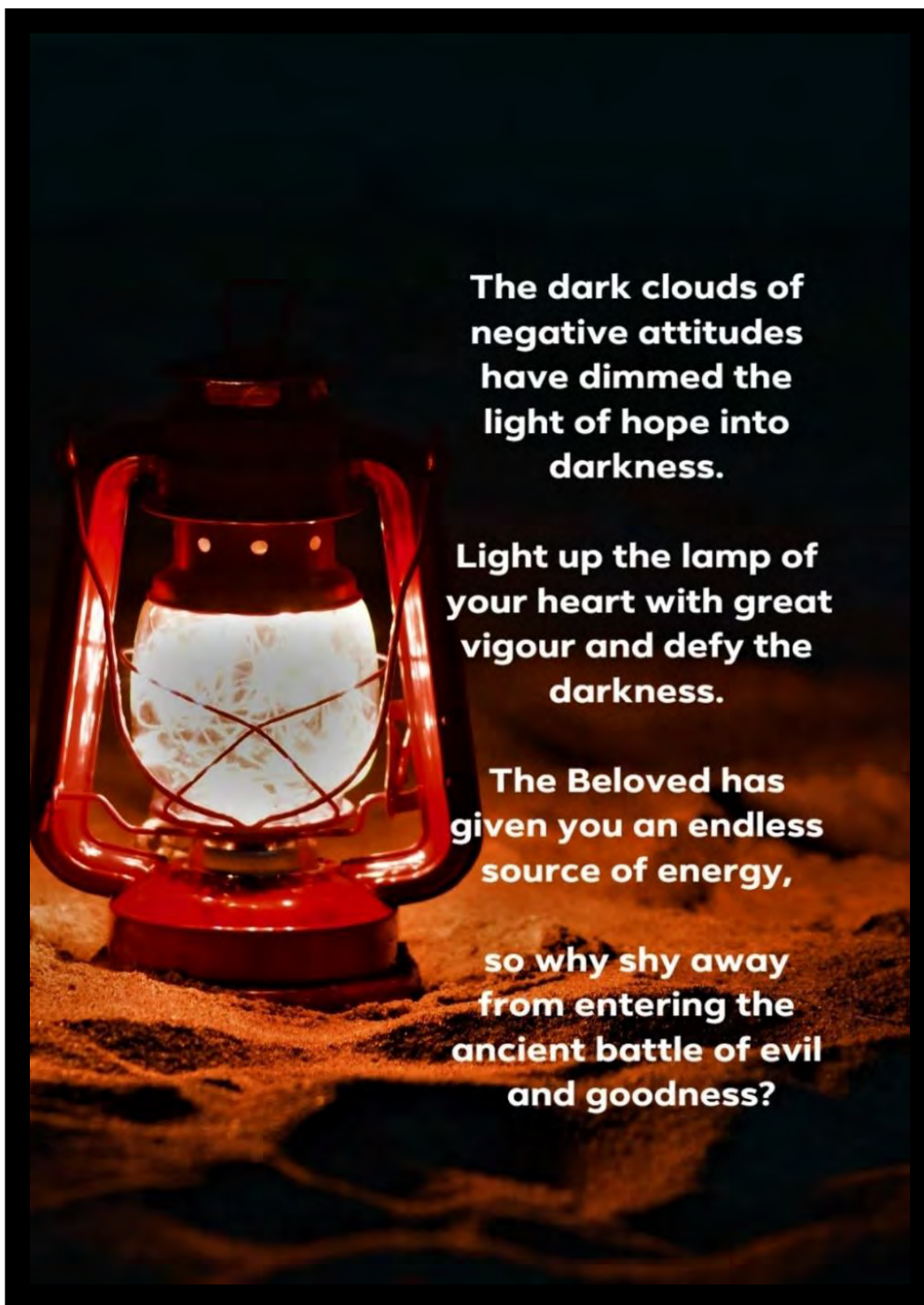
**Out of all the  
drugs, nothing  
is better than  
the sweet  
intoxication of  
giving willingly.**

**How I wish  
everyone got  
addicted and  
gave life and  
possessions  
gladly.**

*“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.

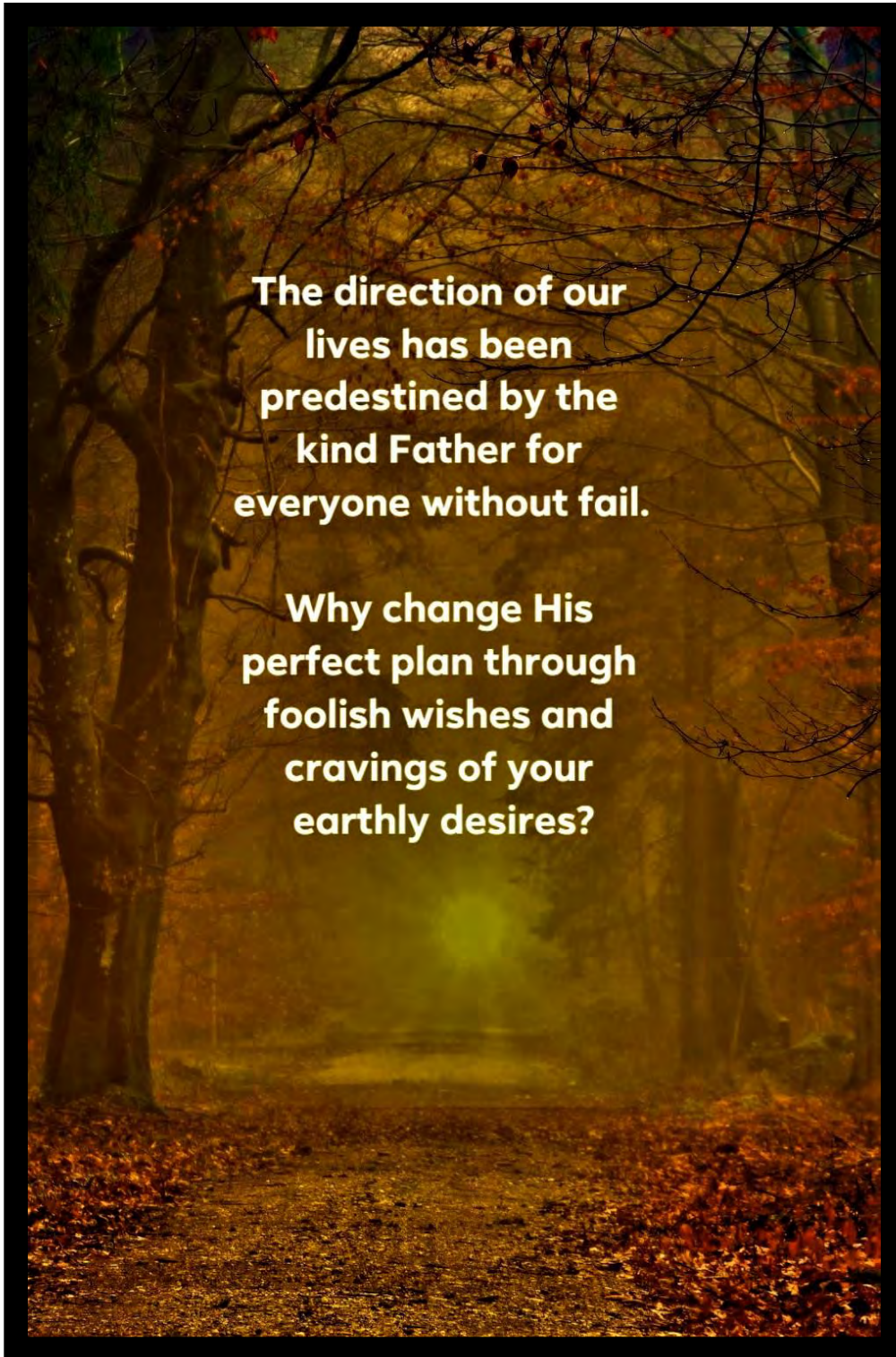
Light up the lamp of your heart with great vigour and defy the darkness.

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*



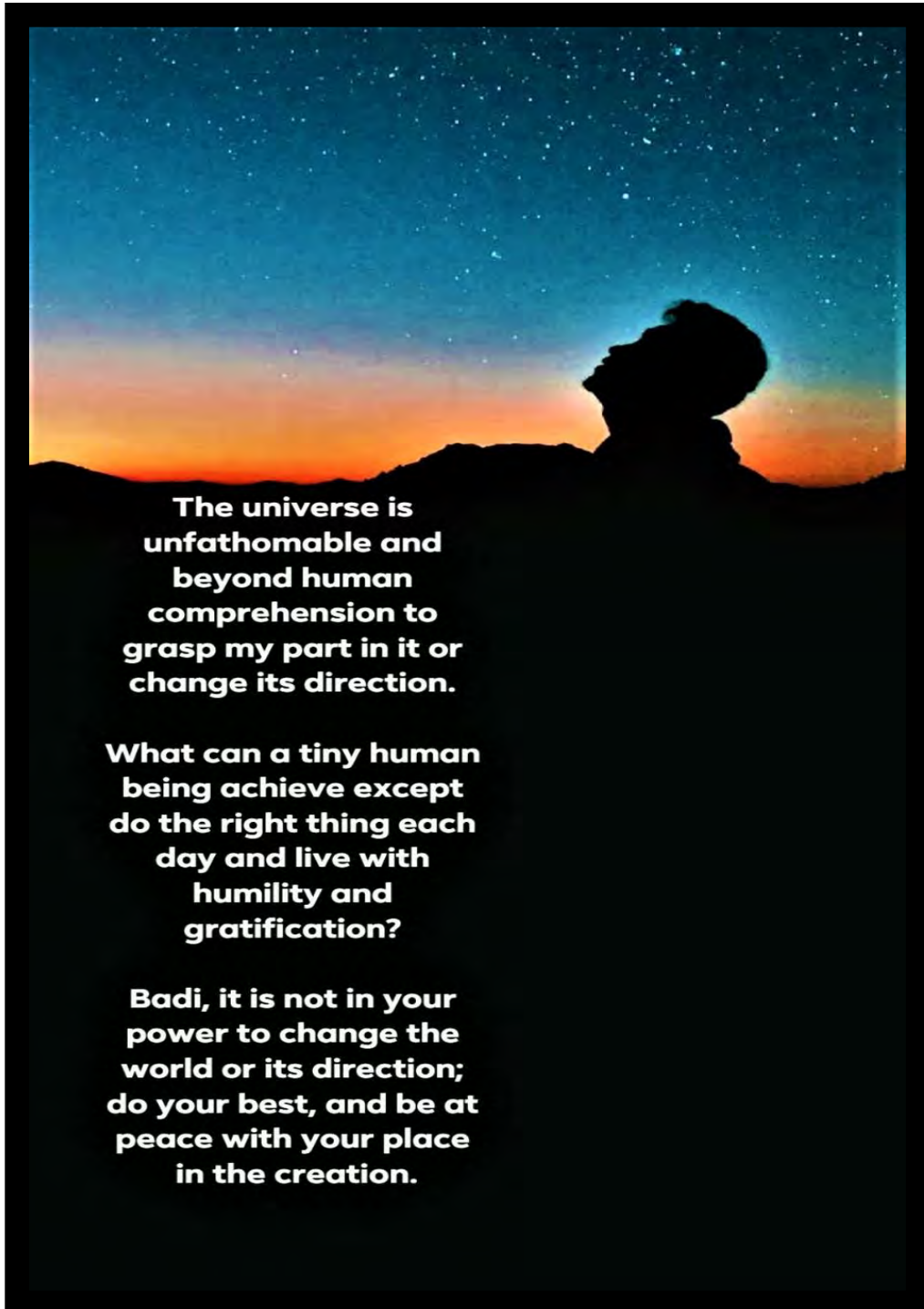
**The direction of our  
lives has been  
predestined by the  
kind Father for  
everyone without fail.**

**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.**

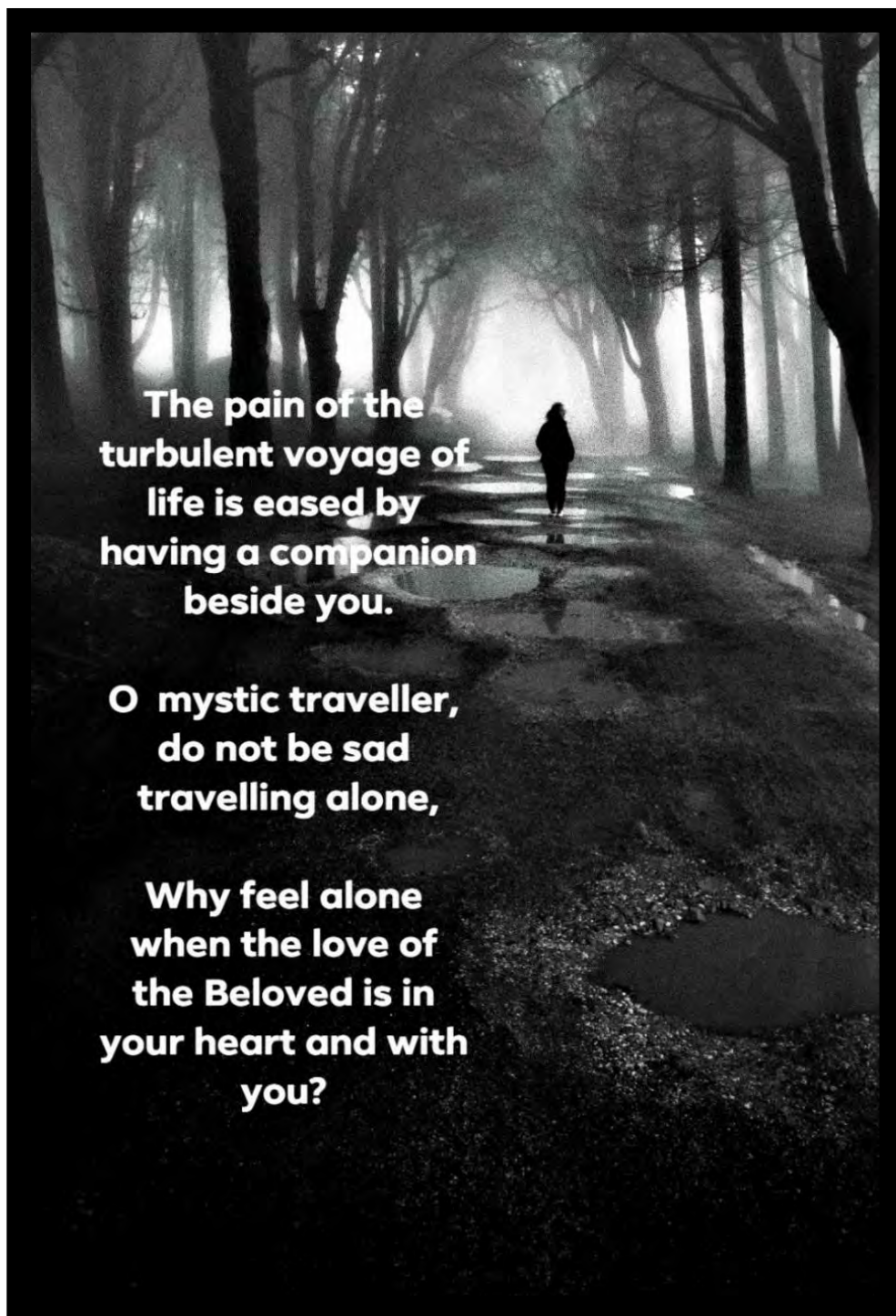
**What can a tiny human being achieve except do the right thing each day and live with humility and gratification?**

**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*



**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*

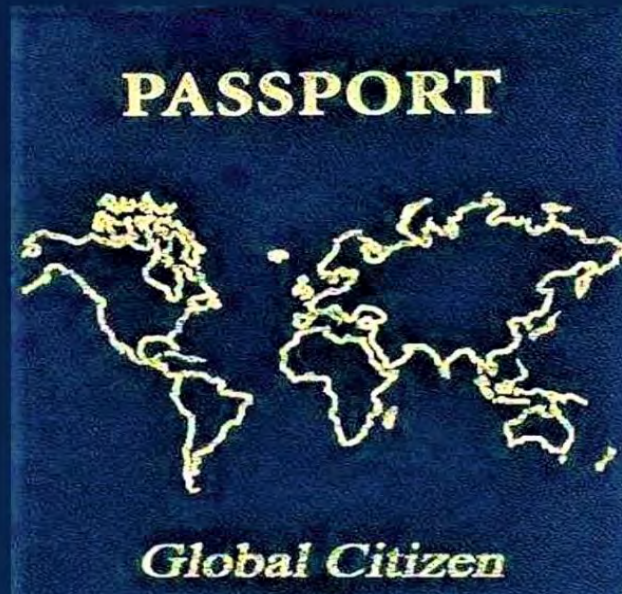
# Global Citizen

**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.**

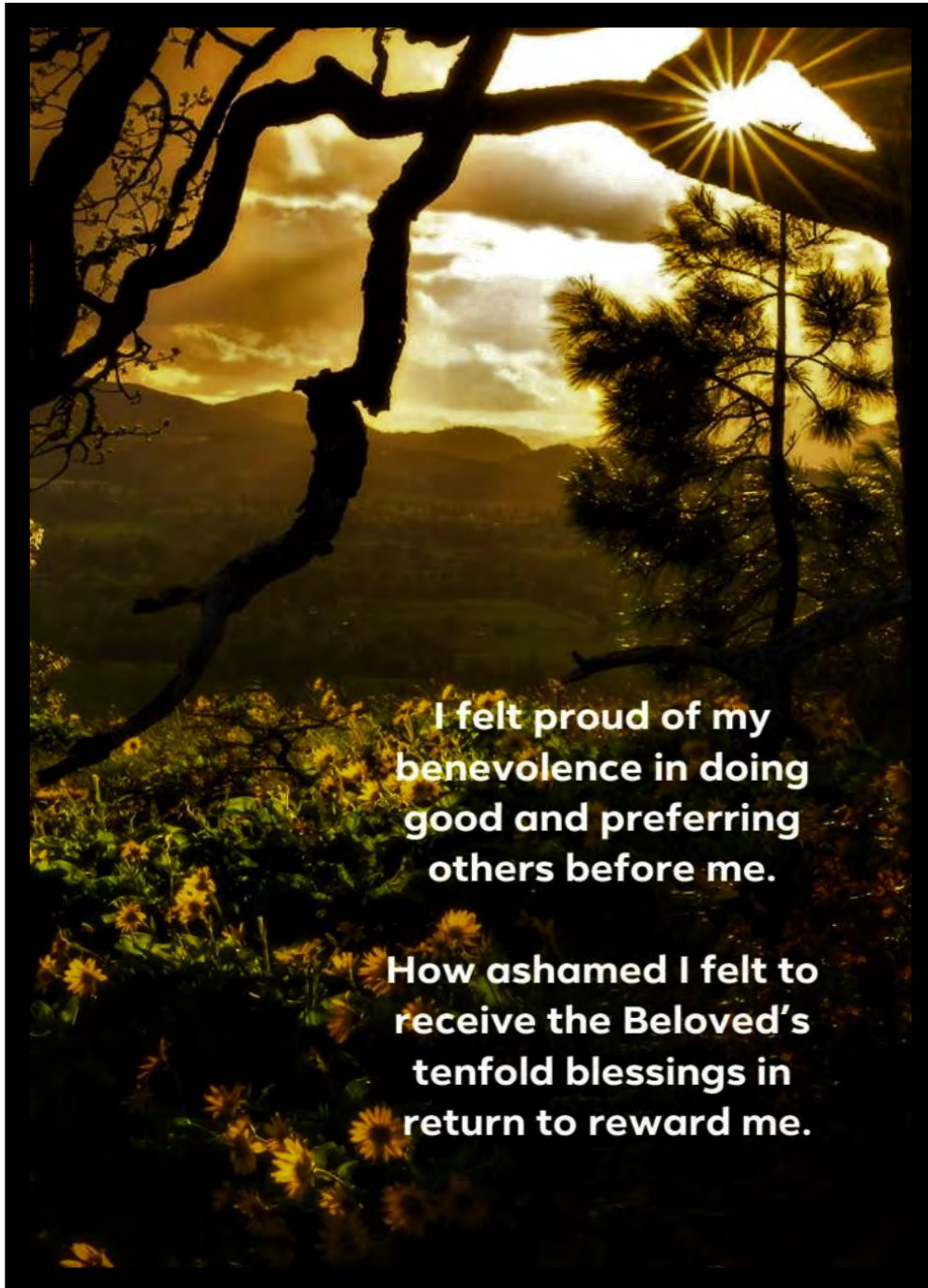
**How can I visit my  
friends and family and  
rebuild our global  
home?**



*“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



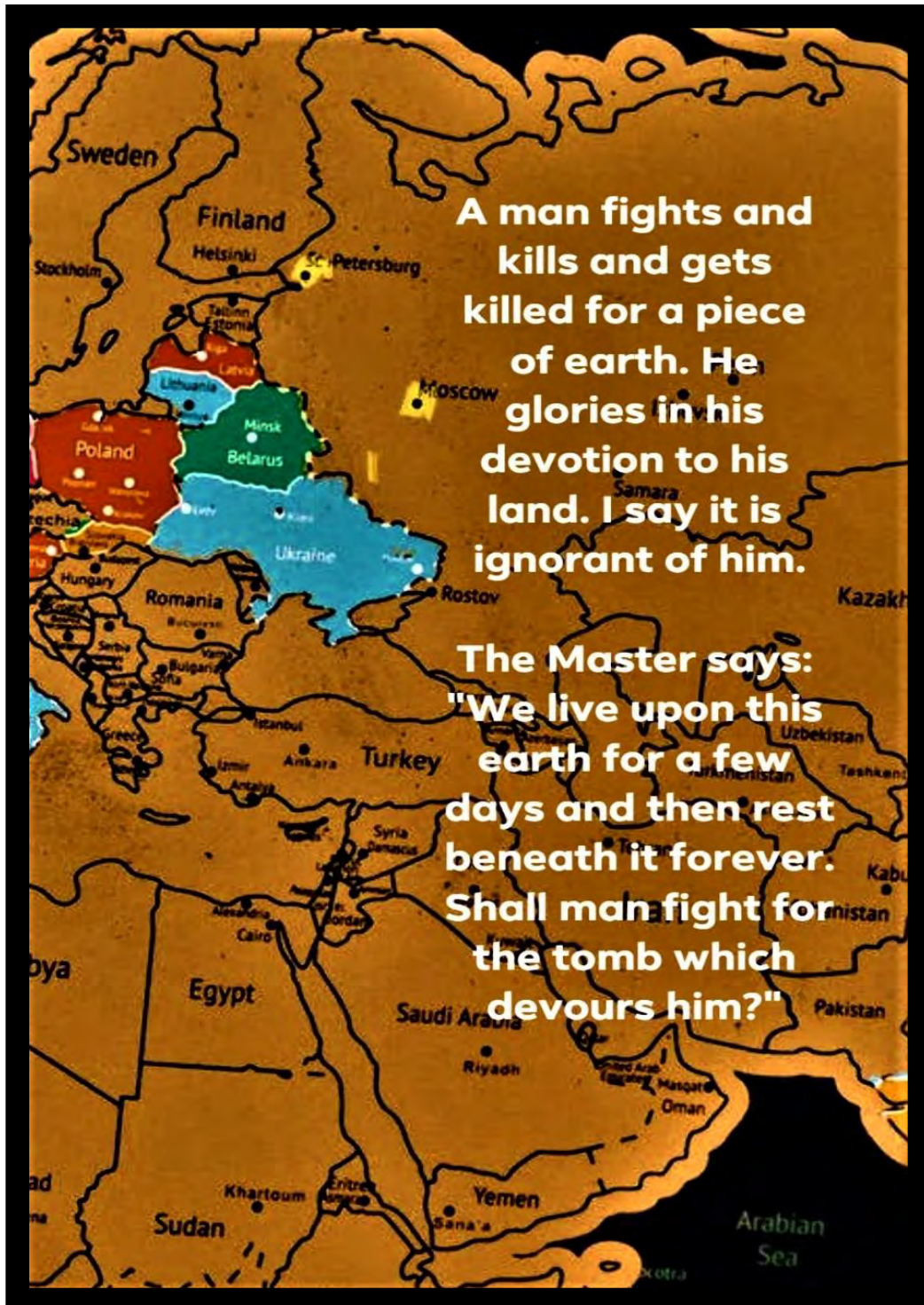
**I felt proud of my  
benevolence in doing  
good and preferring  
others before me.**

**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



*"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*

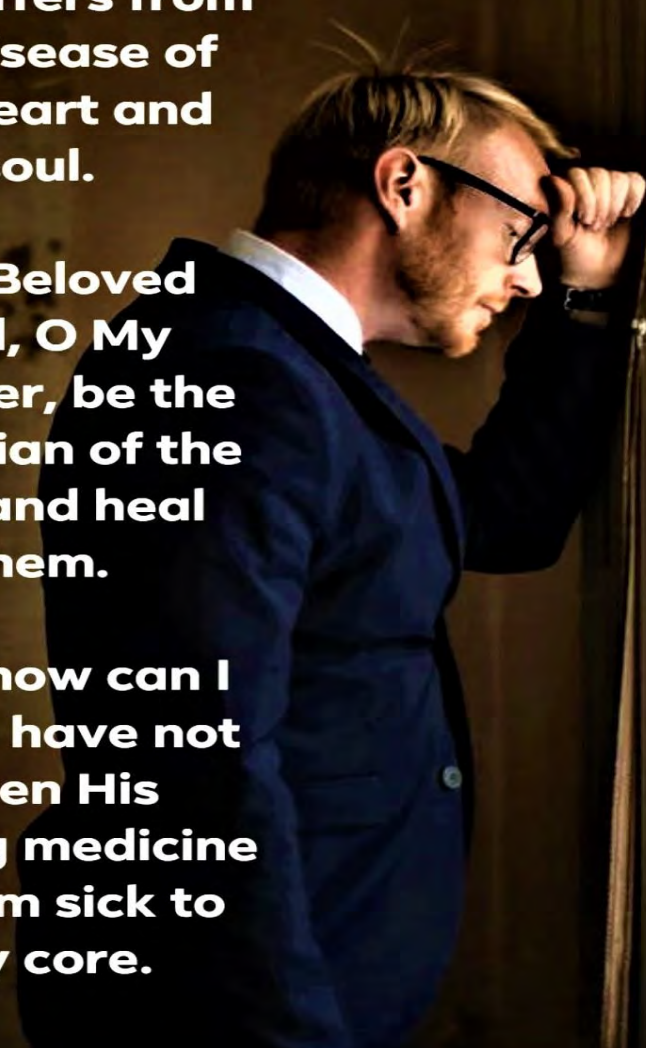


# *Failing to Heal*

**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*

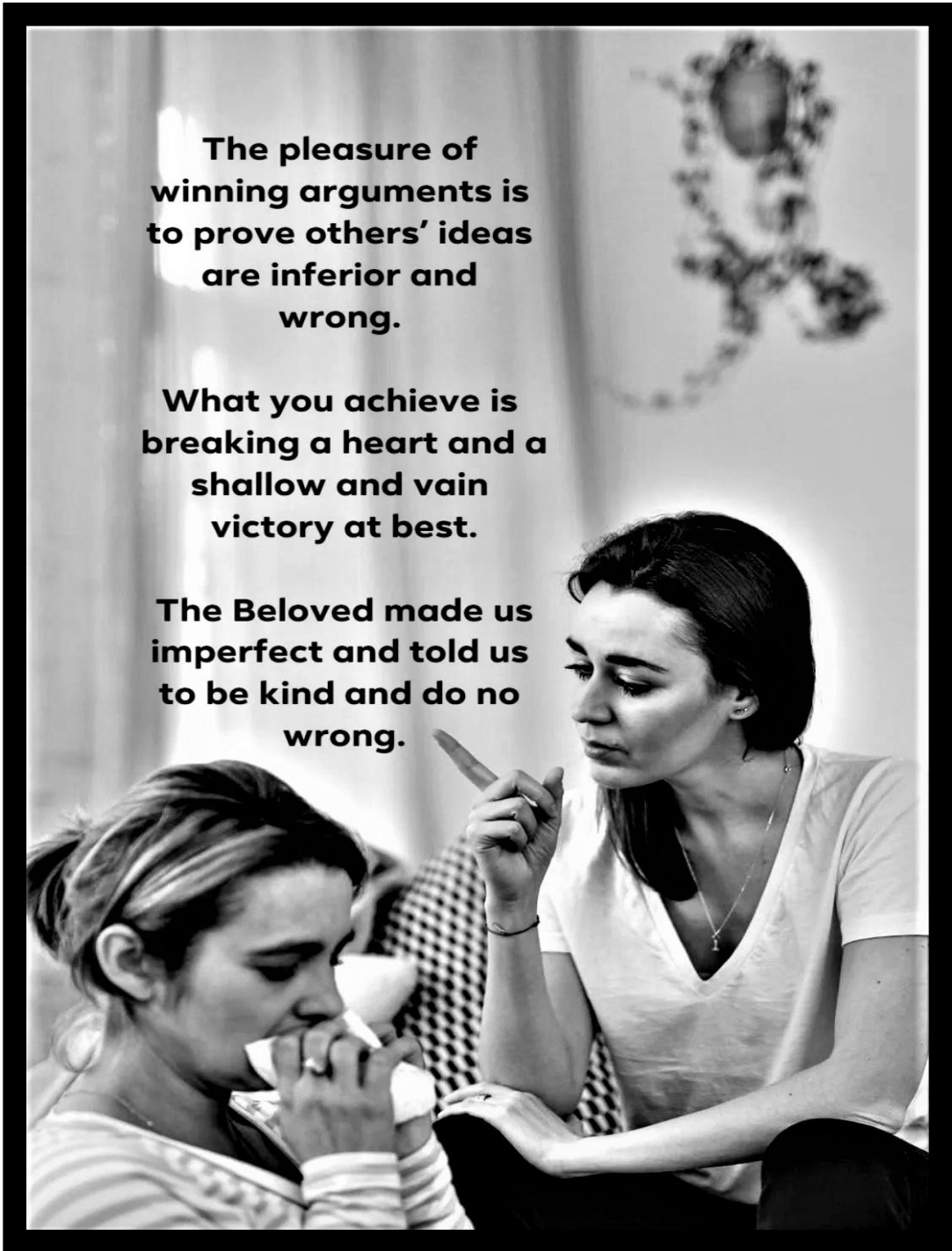


# *Winning Arguments*

**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.**

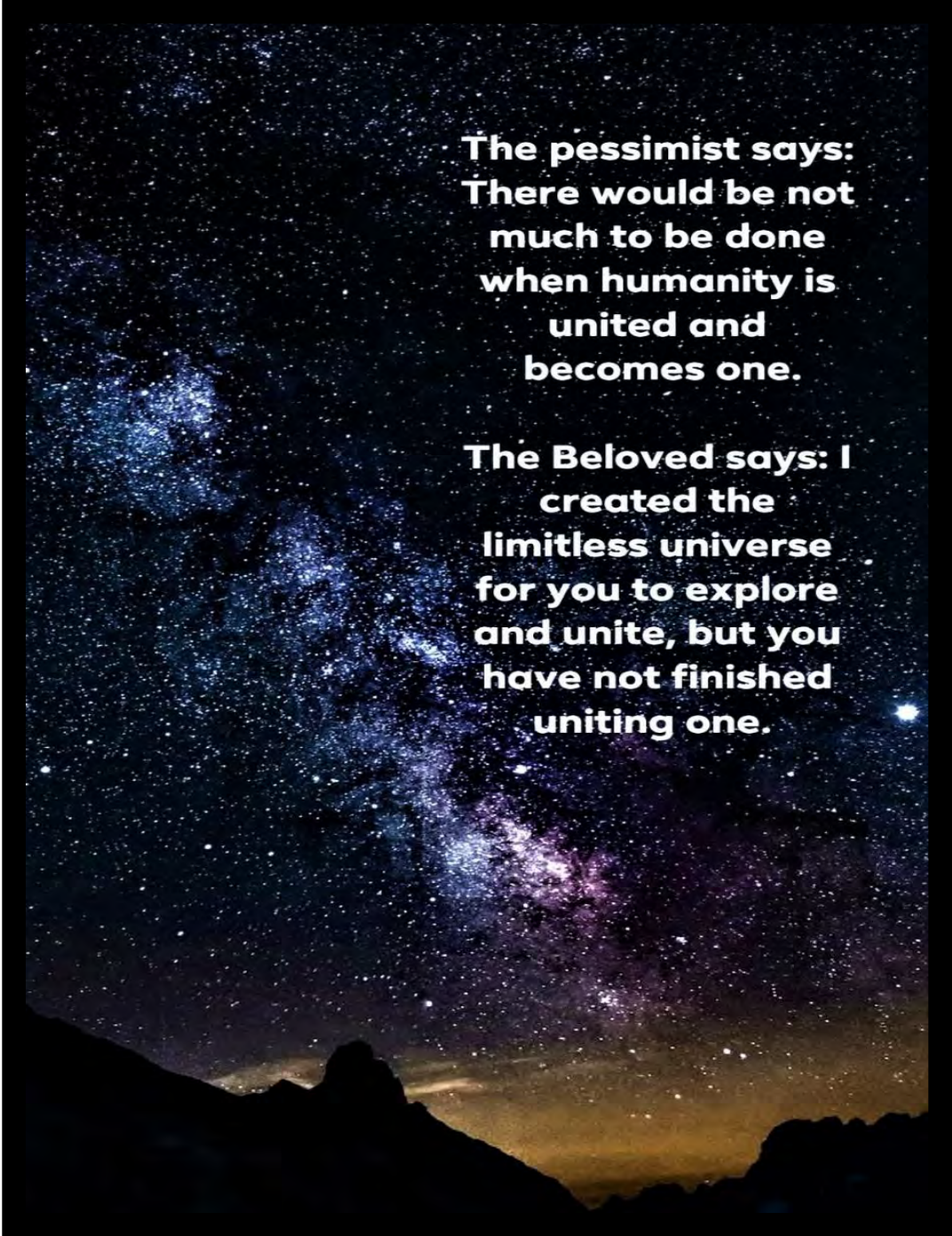
**The Beloved made us  
imperfect and told us  
to be kind and do no  
wrong.**



*“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.**

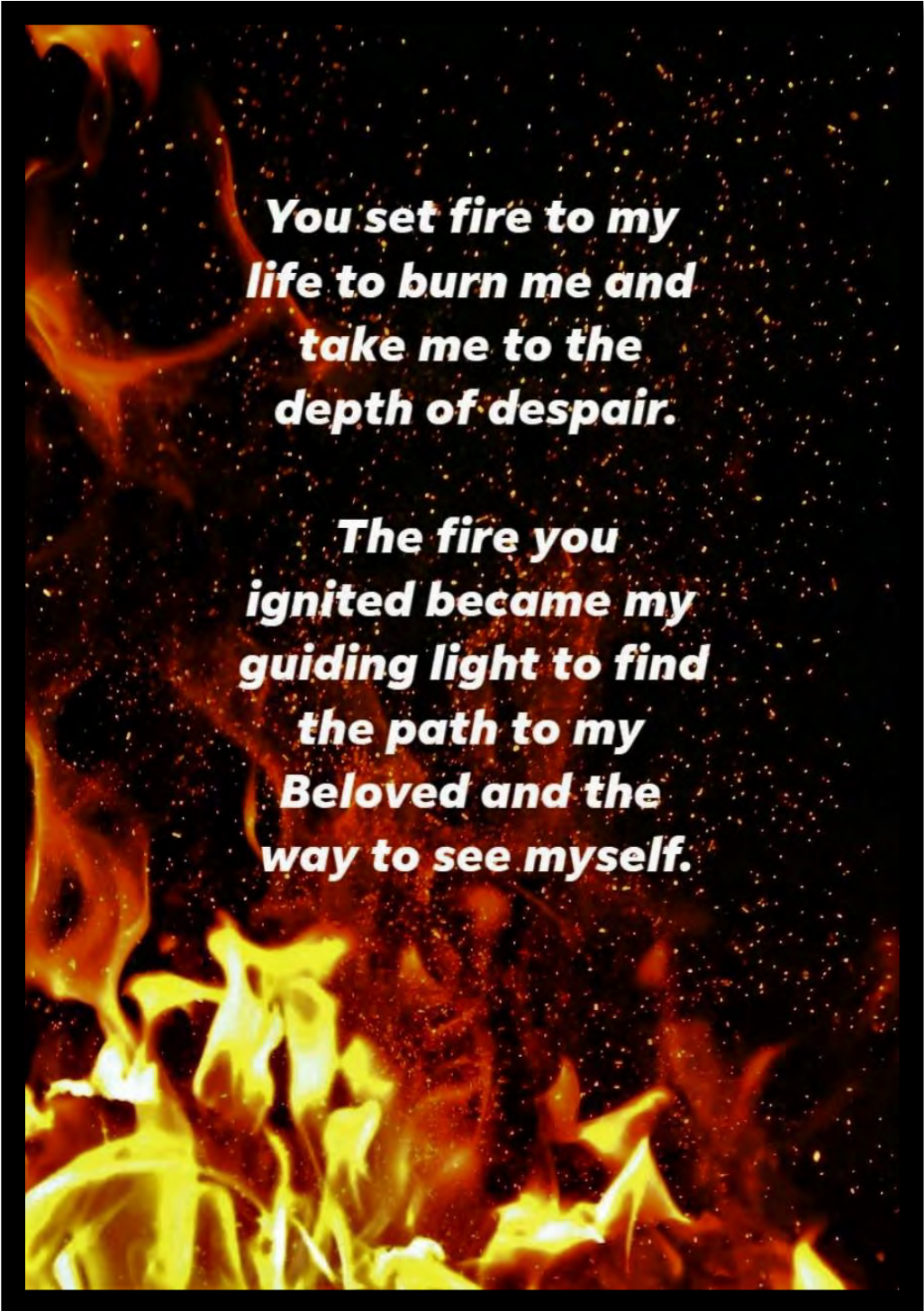
**The Beloved says: I  
created the  
limitless universe  
for you to explore  
and unite, but you  
have not finished  
uniting one.**

*“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*

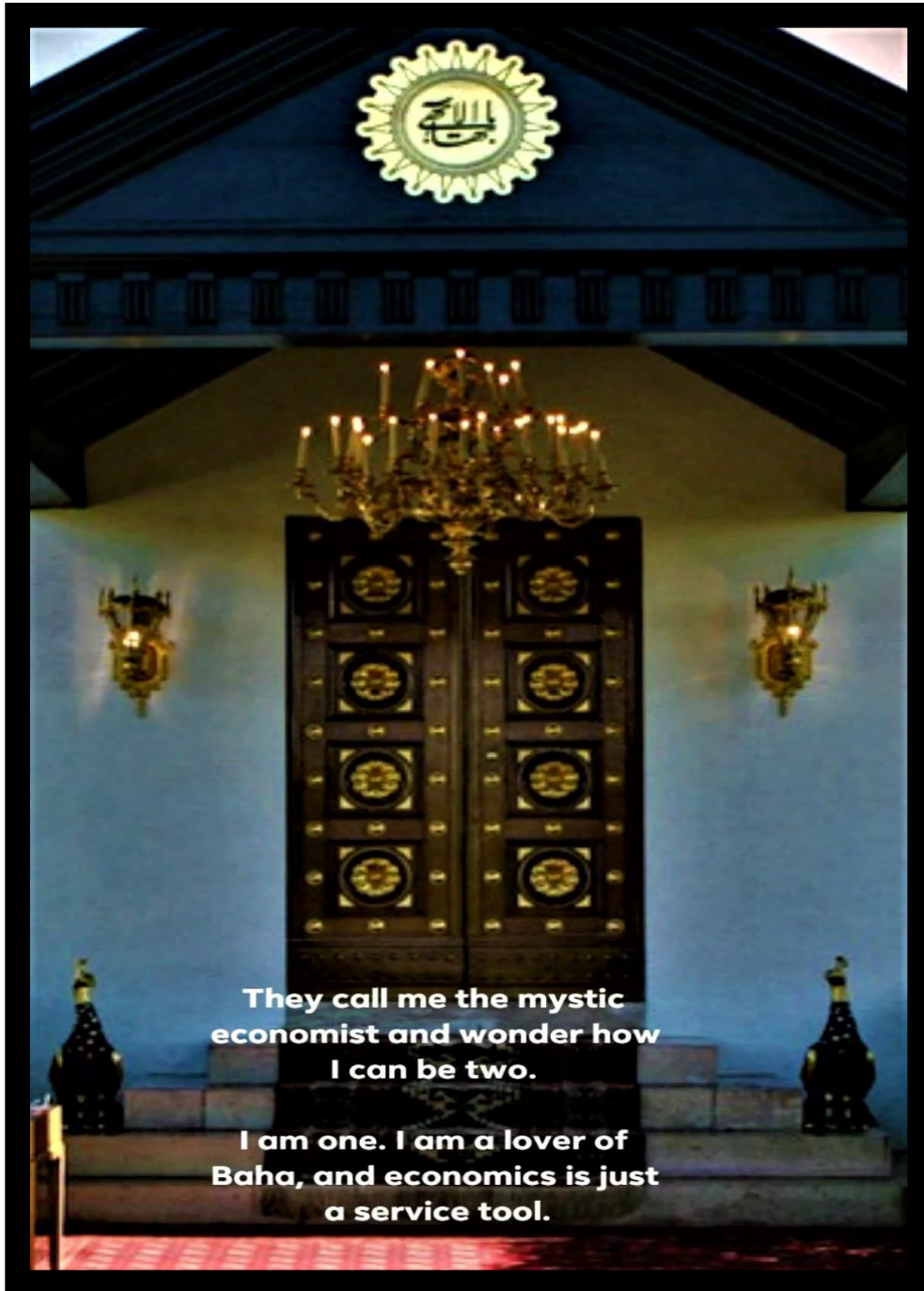
**How joyous I would  
feel to reach the  
high plane of  
certitude and let go  
of my will.**

**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.**

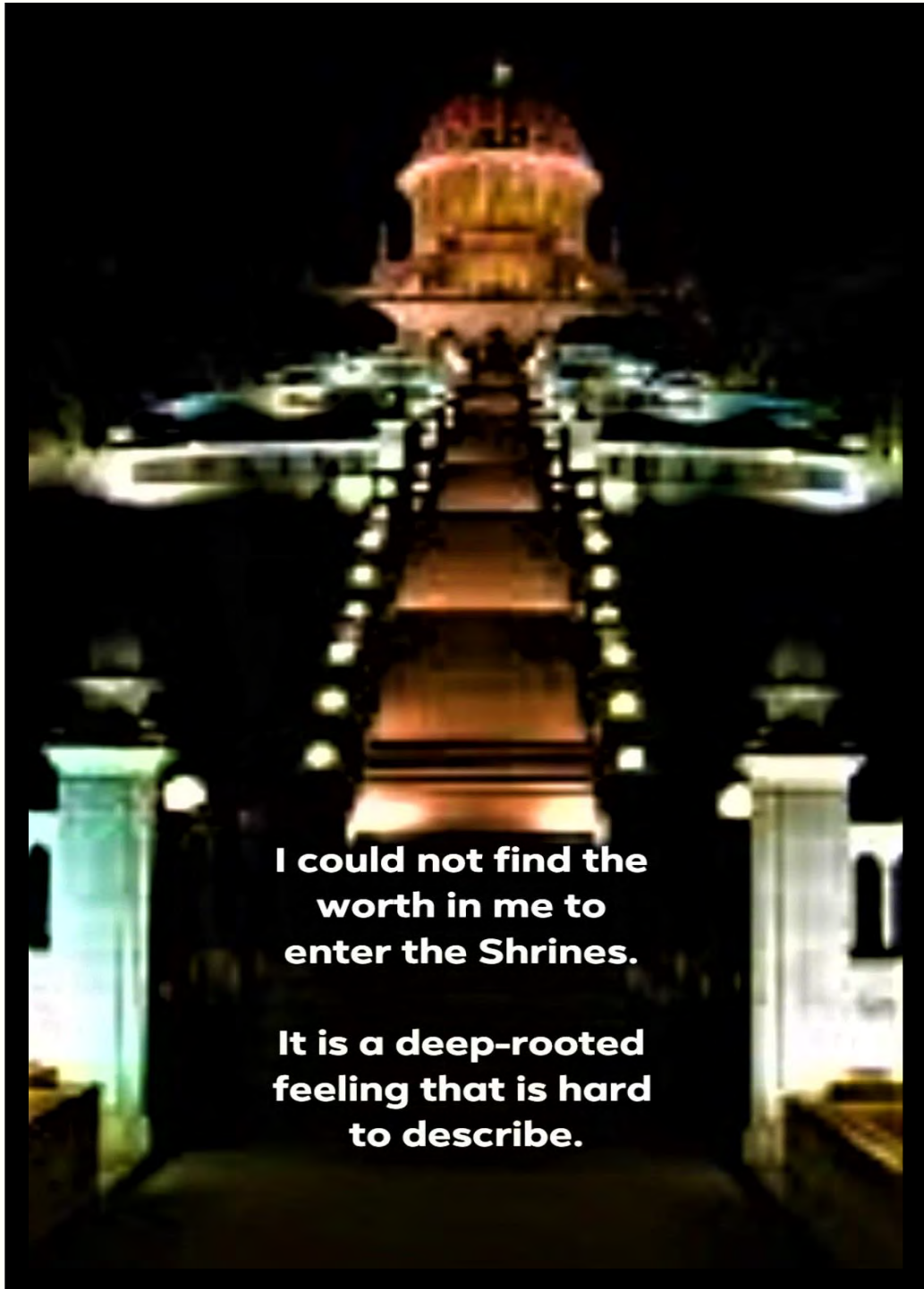
**Yet, we act righteous and  
all-knowing, filling the  
world with arrogance in  
abundance.**



*“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*



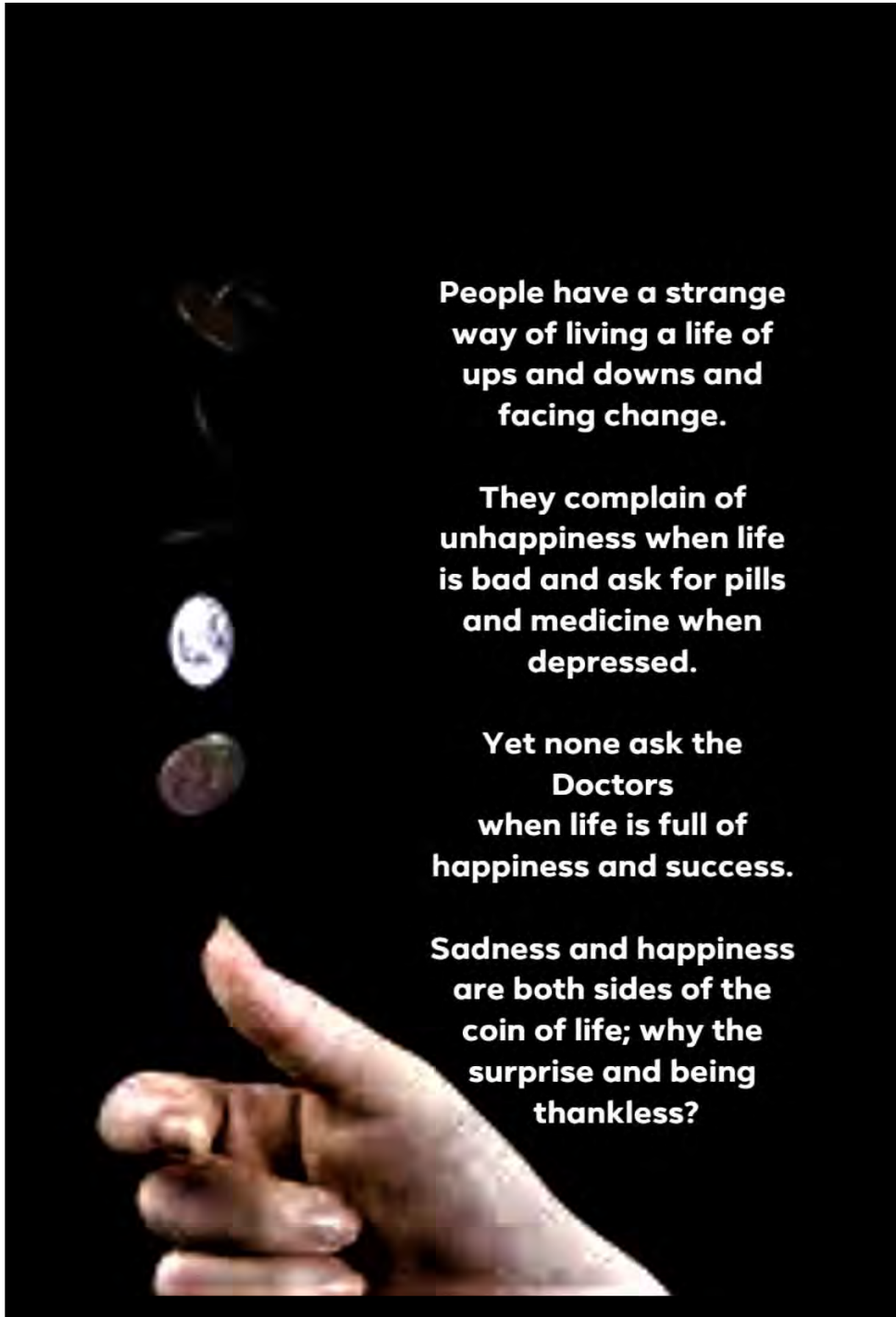
**The vision of my Faith  
is like a spiritual  
health food store,  
offering healing  
remedies to the ailing  
world.**

**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.**

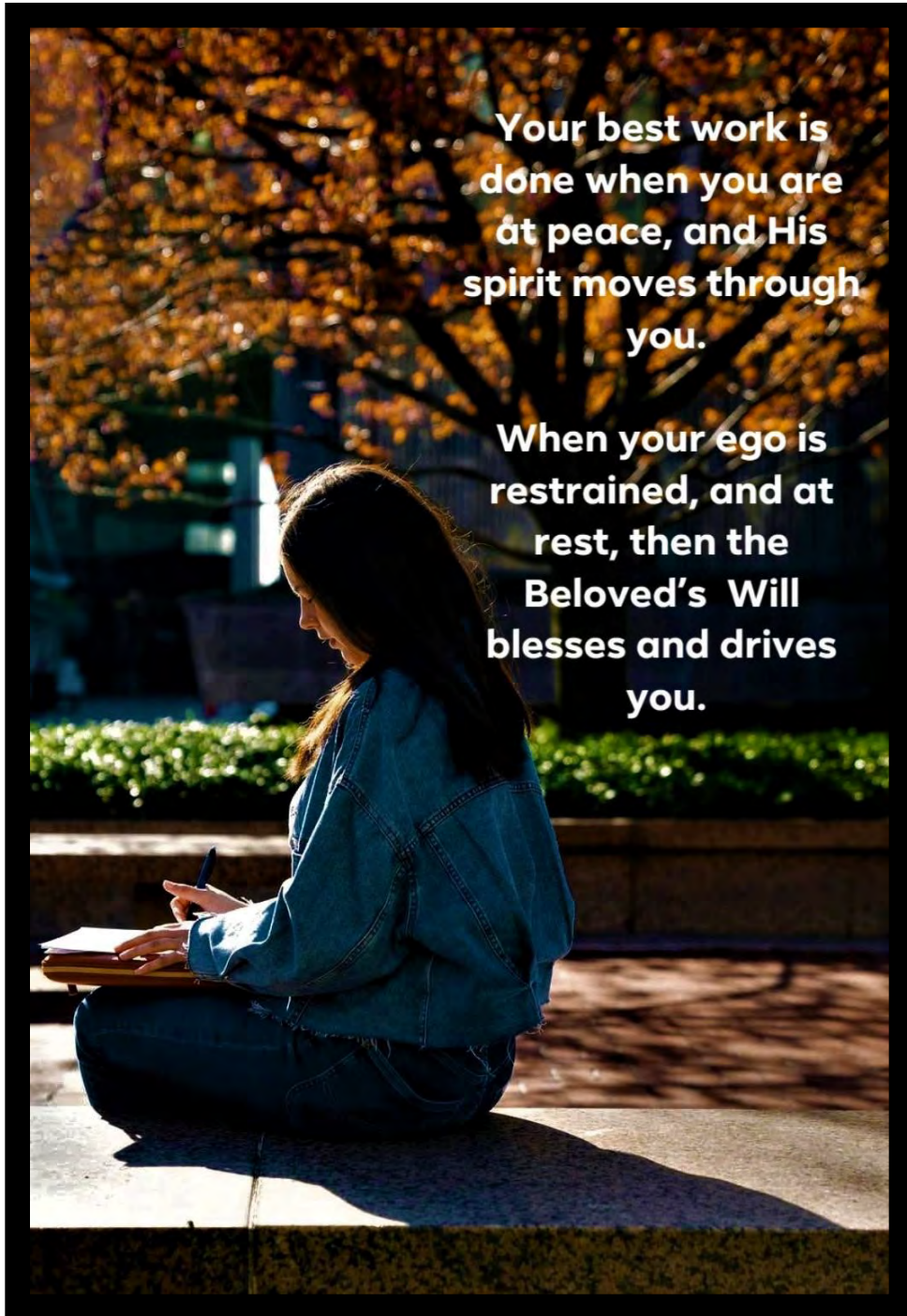
**Yet none ask the Doctors when life is full of happiness and success.**

**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."

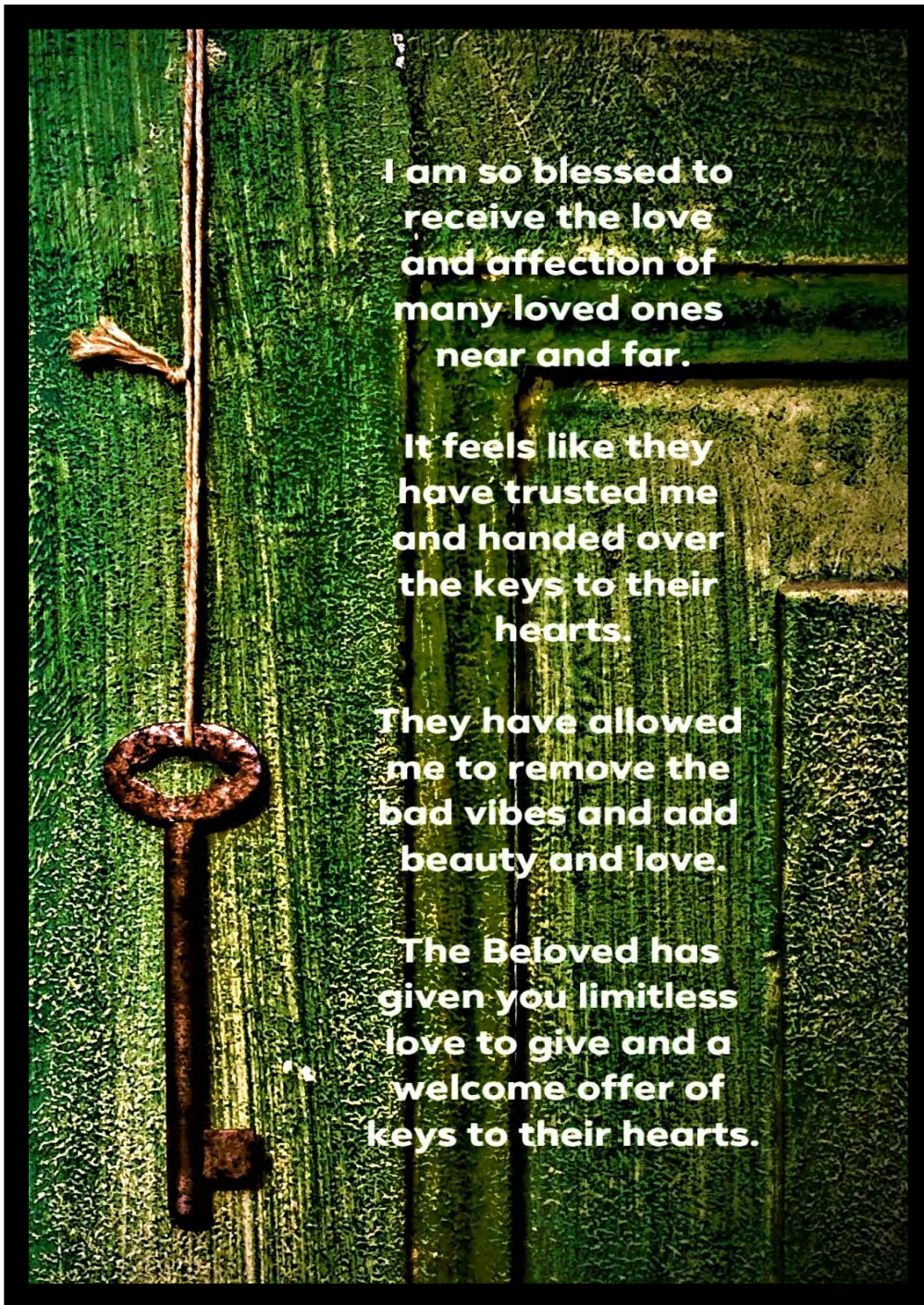
My soul feels and grasps this, but my ego denies it, seeking earthly pleasures and making its own version of reality.

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



I am so blessed to receive the love and affection of many loved ones near and far.

It feels like they have trusted me and handed over the keys to their hearts.

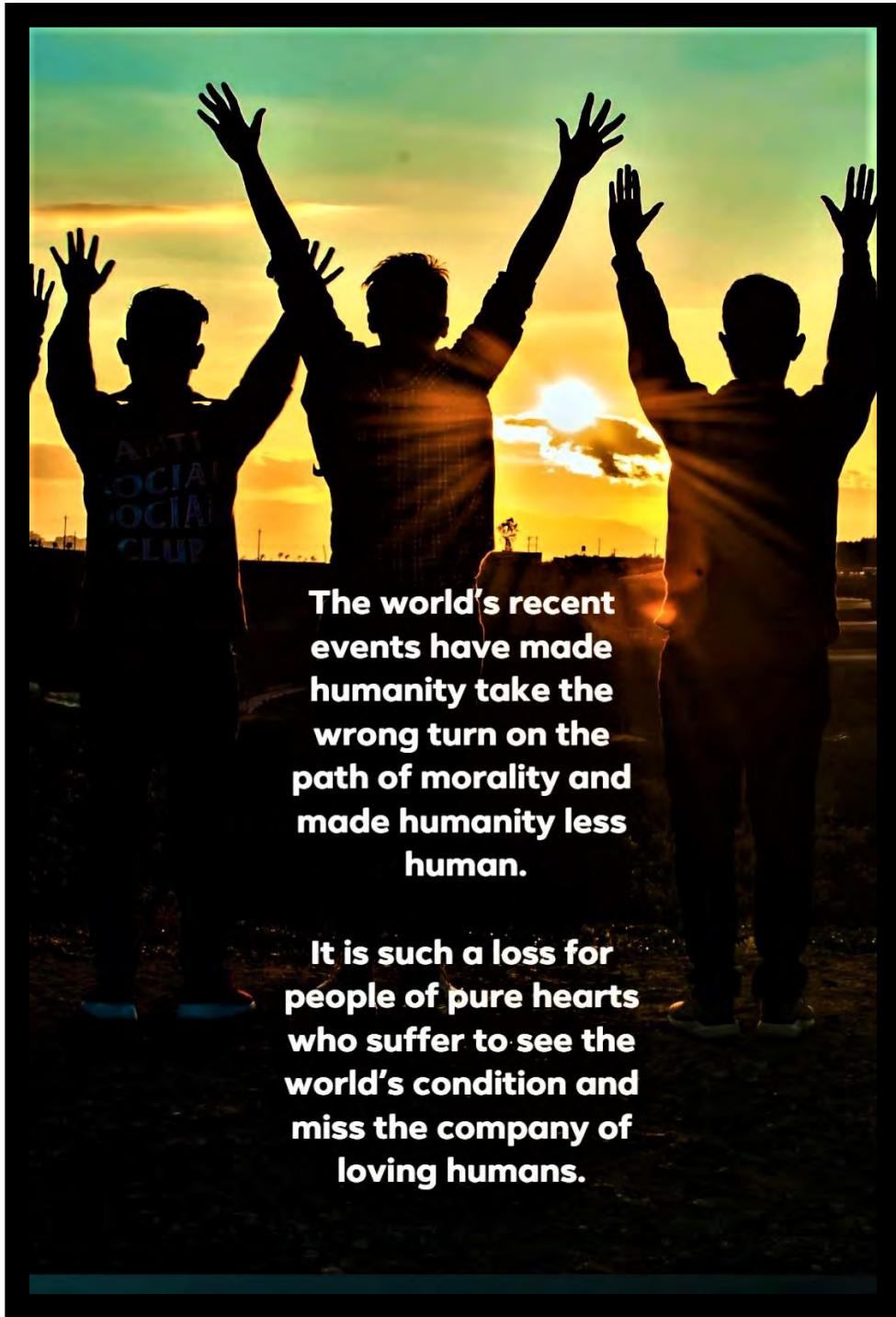
They have allowed me to remove the bad vibes and add beauty and love.

The Beloved has given you limitless love to give and a welcome offer of keys to their hearts.

*“Success isn’t the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success.” ~Buddha*



# *Missing Loving Humans*

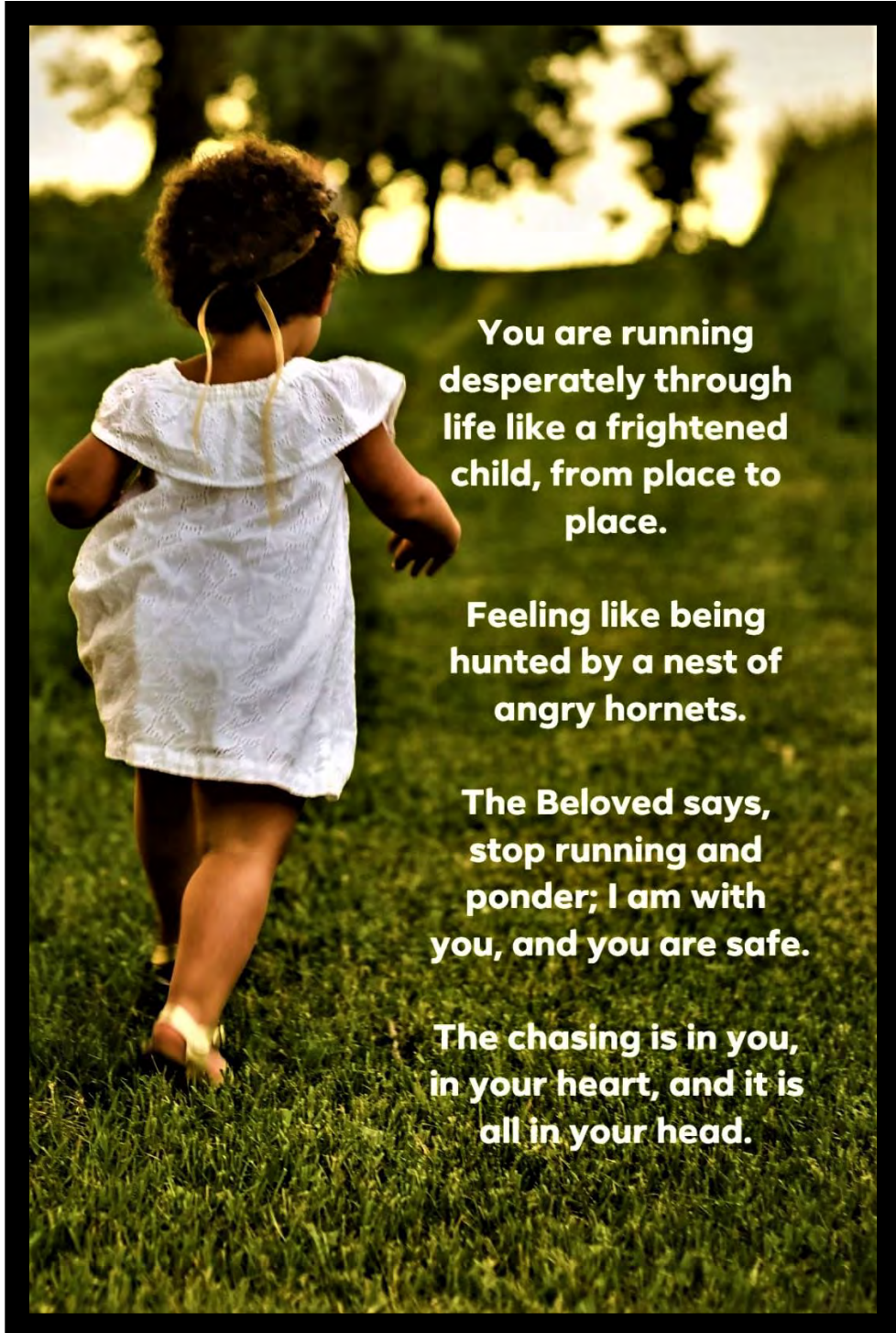


**The world's recent events have made humanity take the wrong turn on the path of morality and made humanity less human.**

**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.**

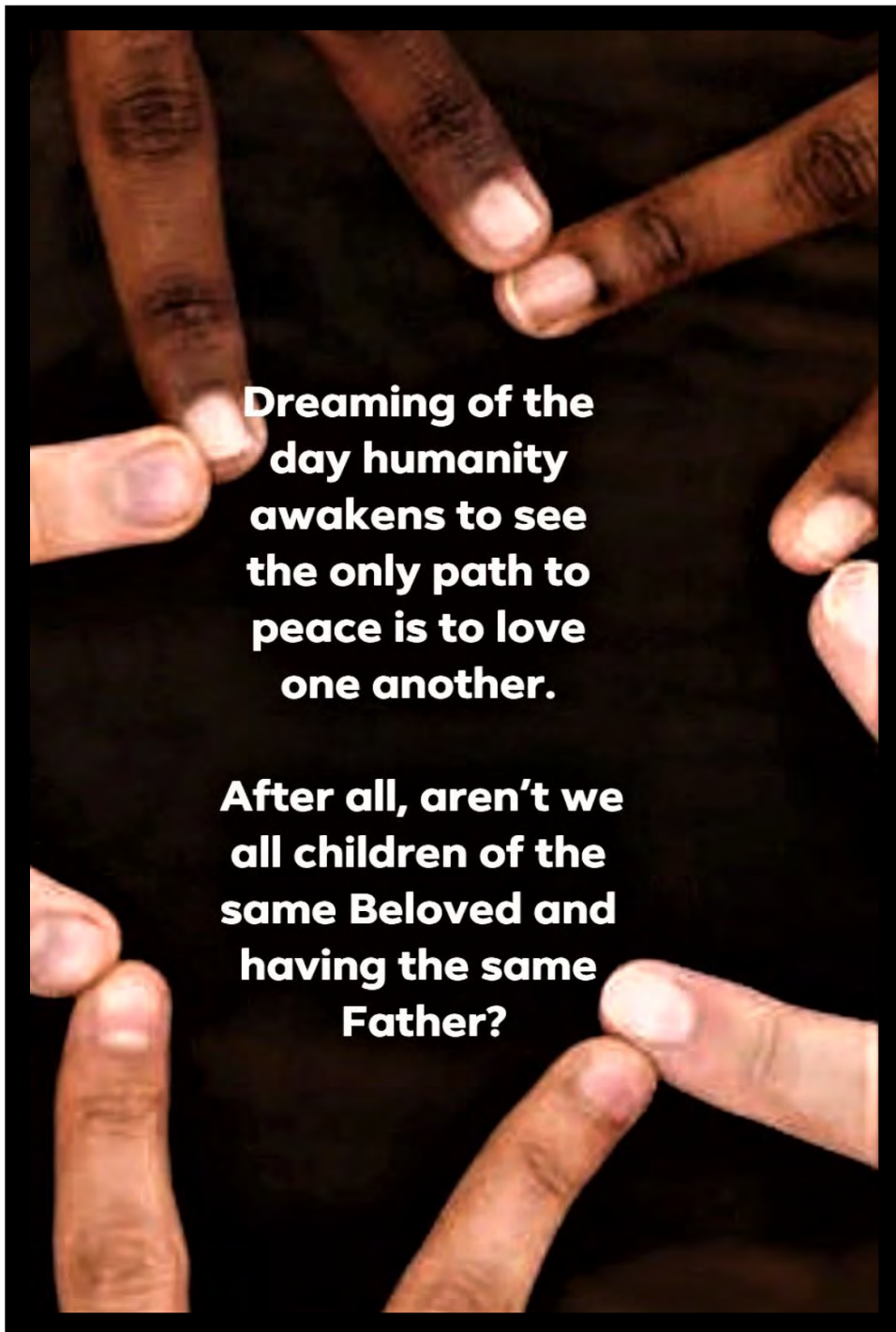
**Feeling like being hunted by a nest of angry hornets.**

**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*



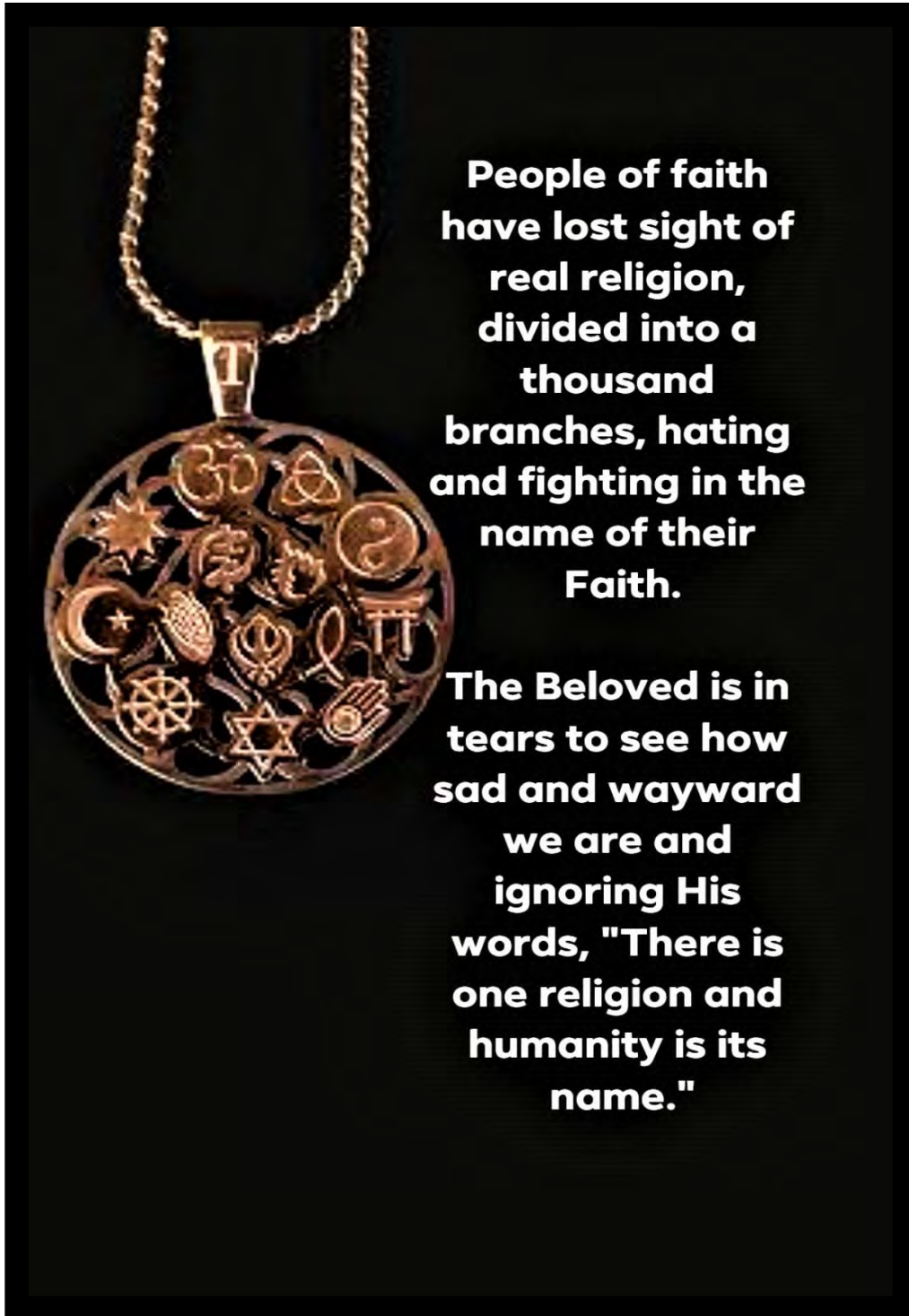
**Dreaming of the  
day humanity  
awakens to see  
the only path to  
peace is to love  
one another.**

**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*



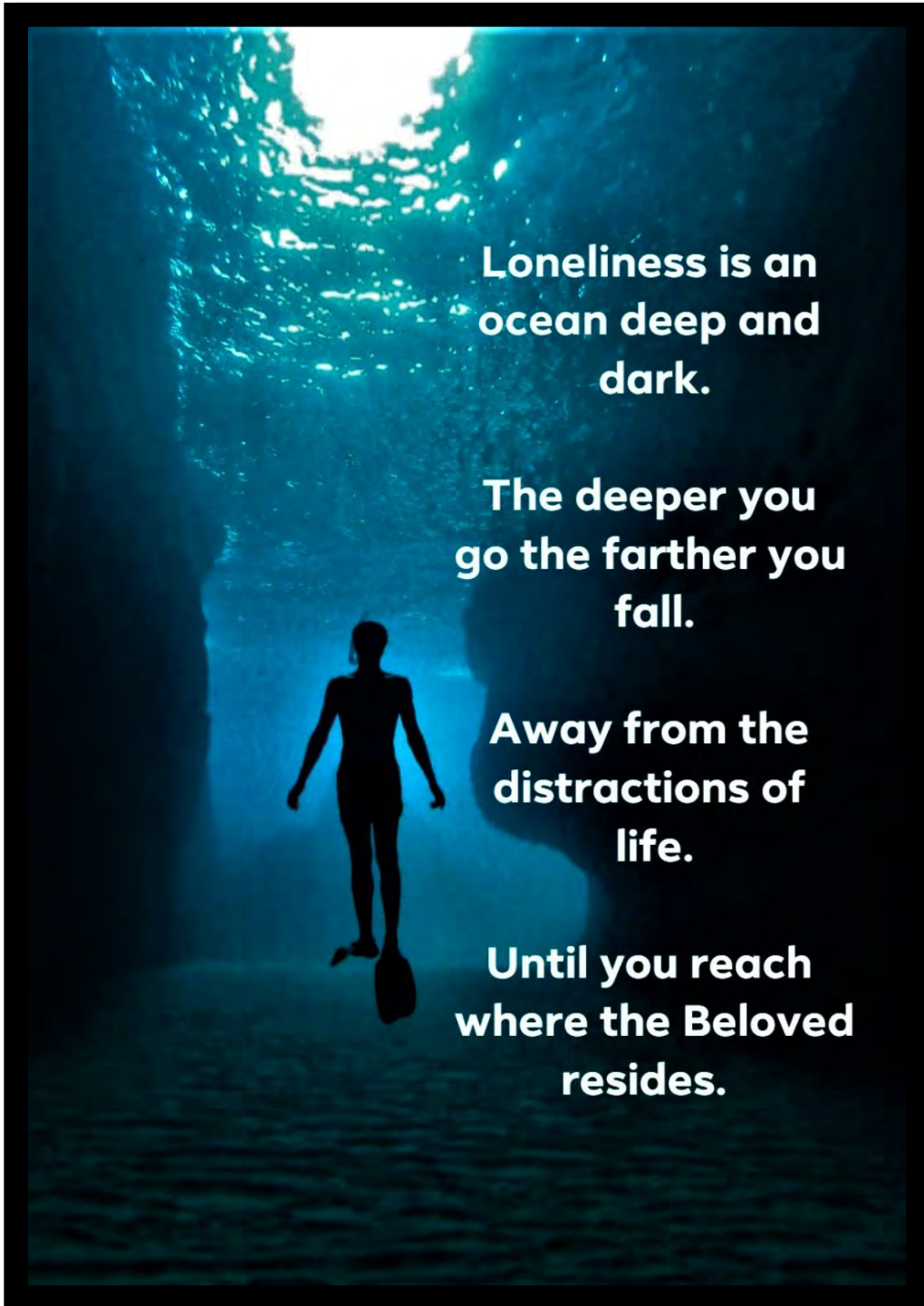
Years ago, in the  
prime of my youth,  
by a sad accident,  
I lost sight in one  
eye.

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*



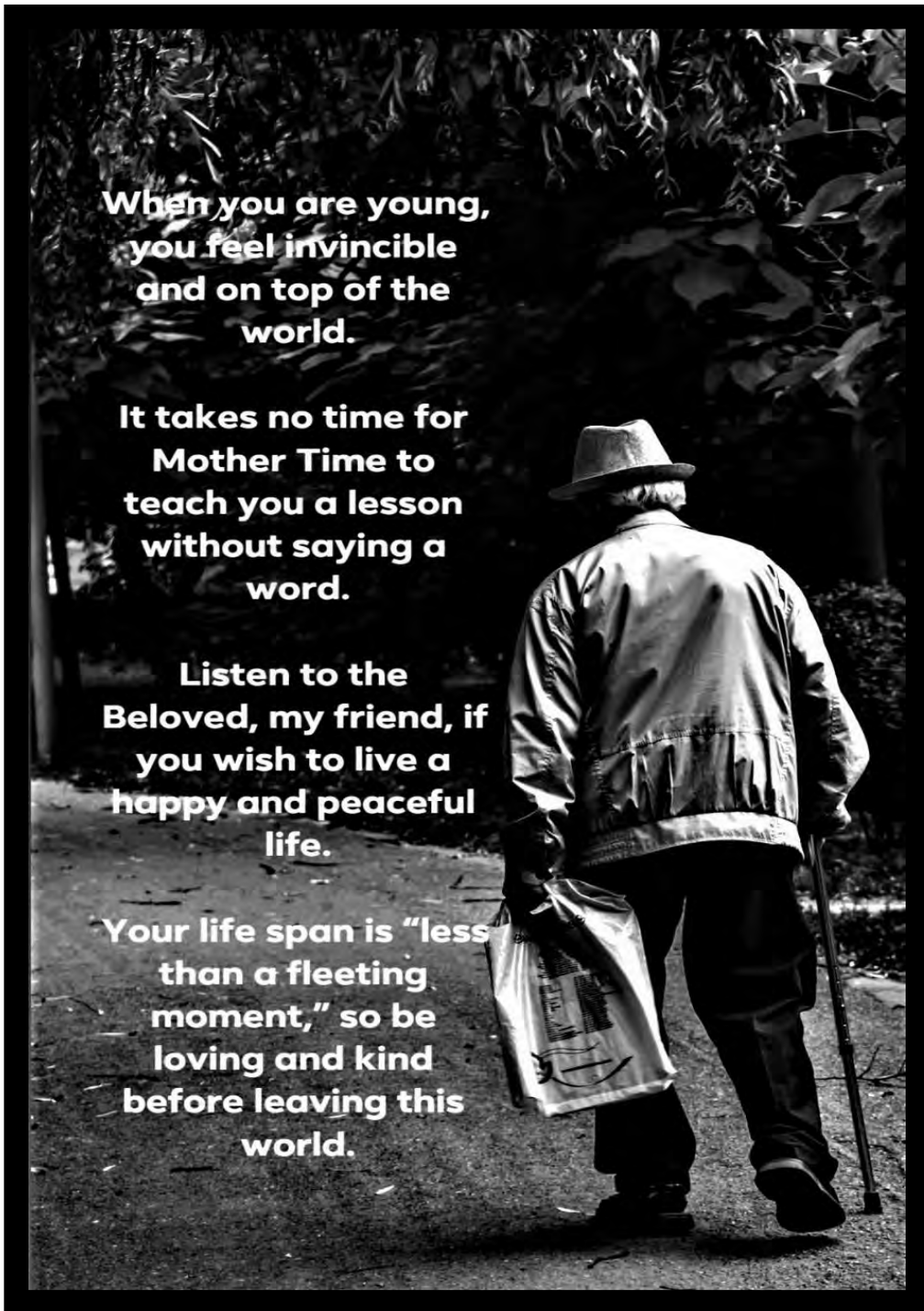
# *Fleeting Moment*

**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.**

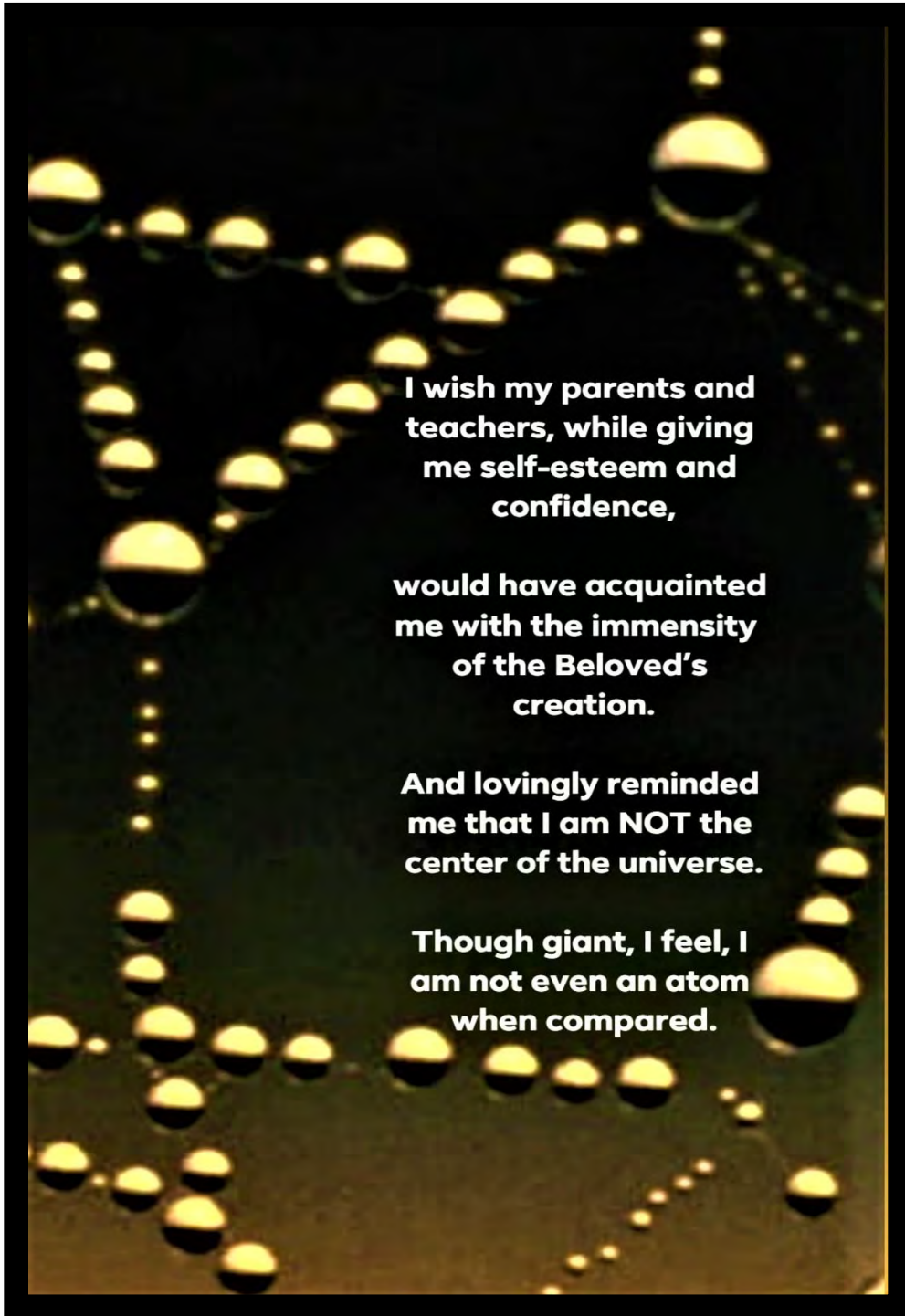
**Listen to the  
Beloved, my friend, if  
you wish to live a  
happy and peaceful  
life.**

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



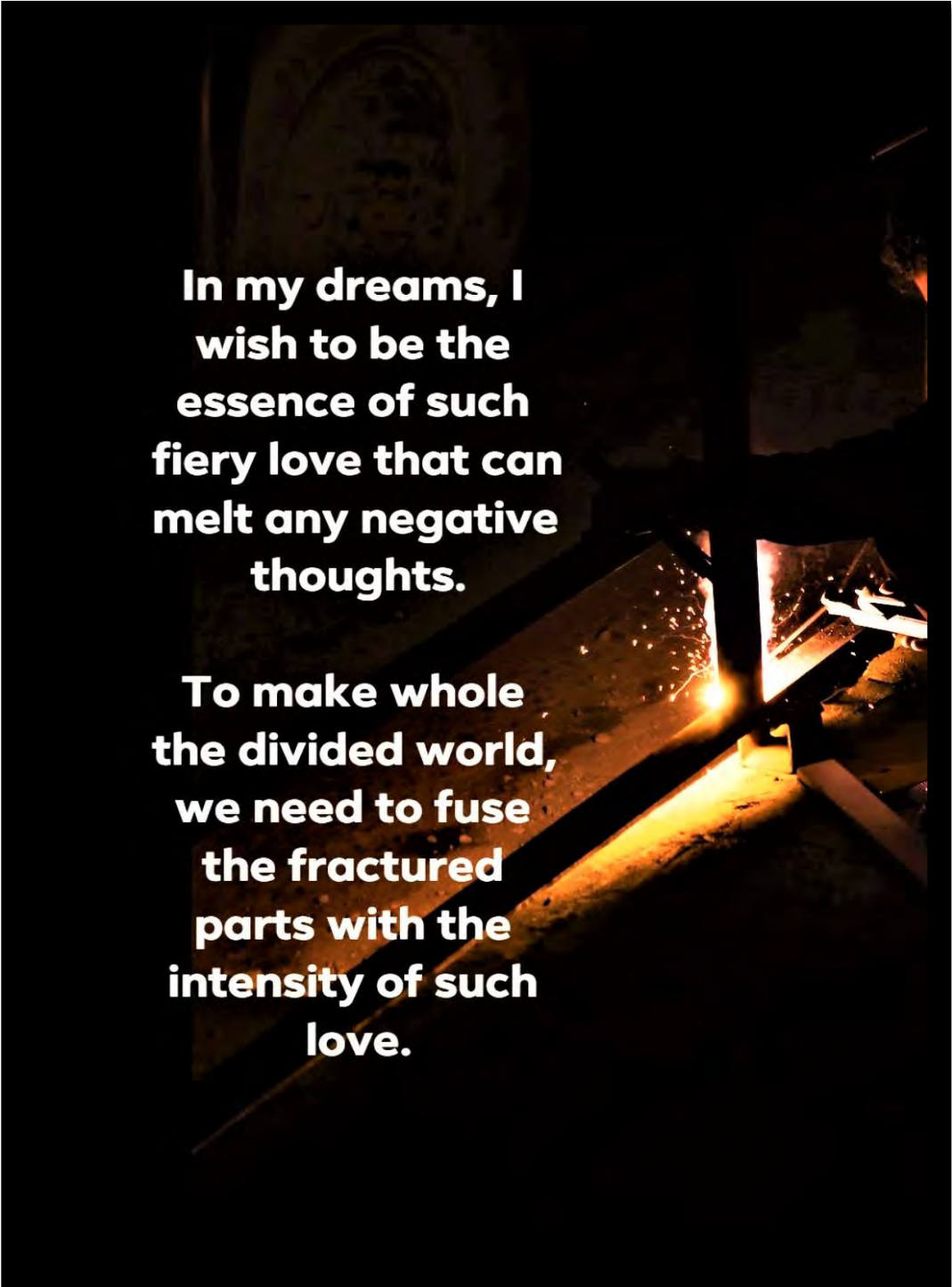
*"Live then the days of thy life, that are less than a fleeting moment." ~Baha'u'llah*

# *Center of the Universe*



*“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*



**The death of a spouse  
and partner in happy and  
sad times is hard and  
painful but is not the end.**

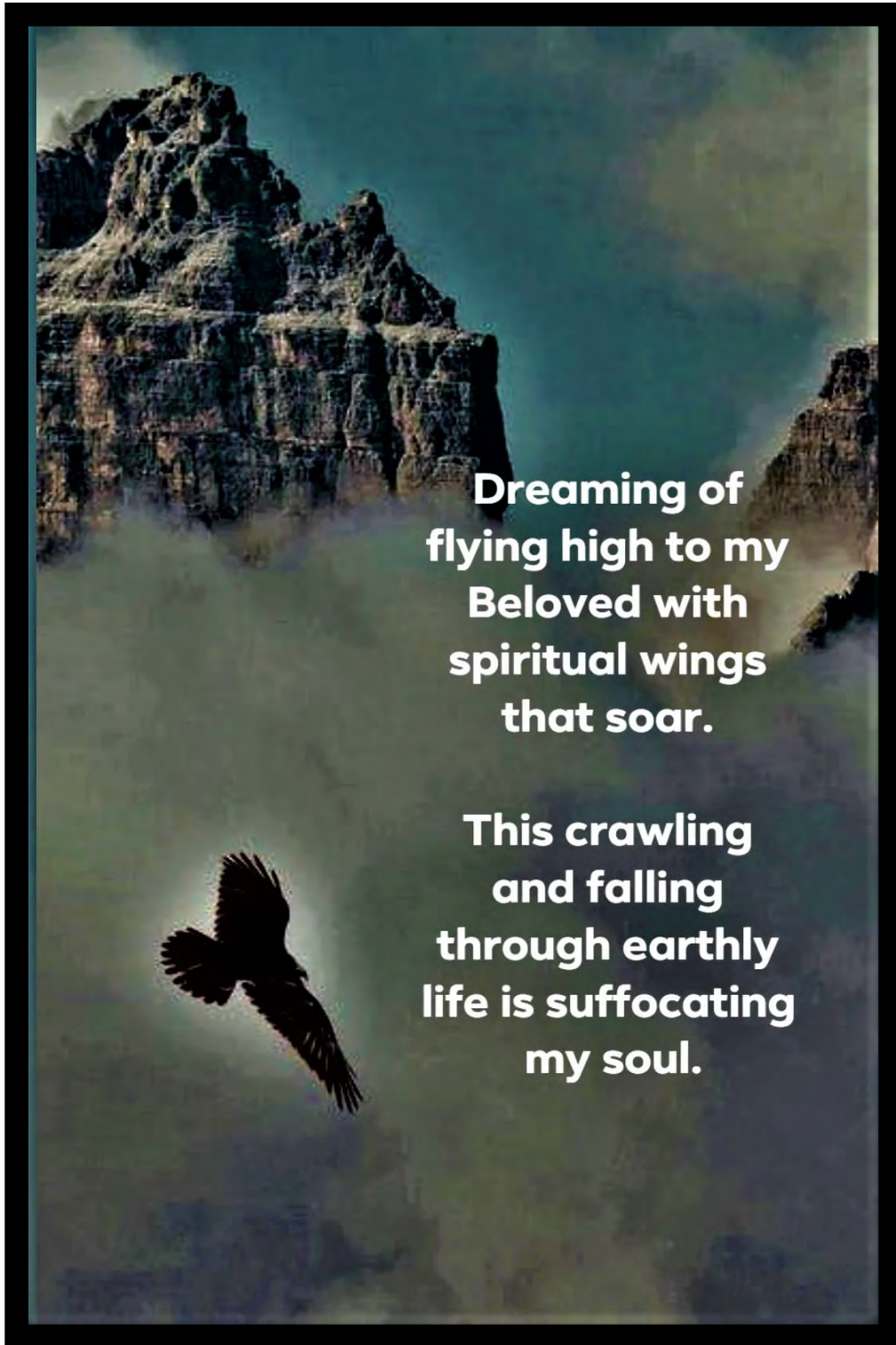
**Cherish the memories of  
the good times, and you  
will be together again  
once your journey ends.**

**Death is a messenger of  
joy, bringing glad tidings  
of the union from the  
Beloved's realms.**

*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*



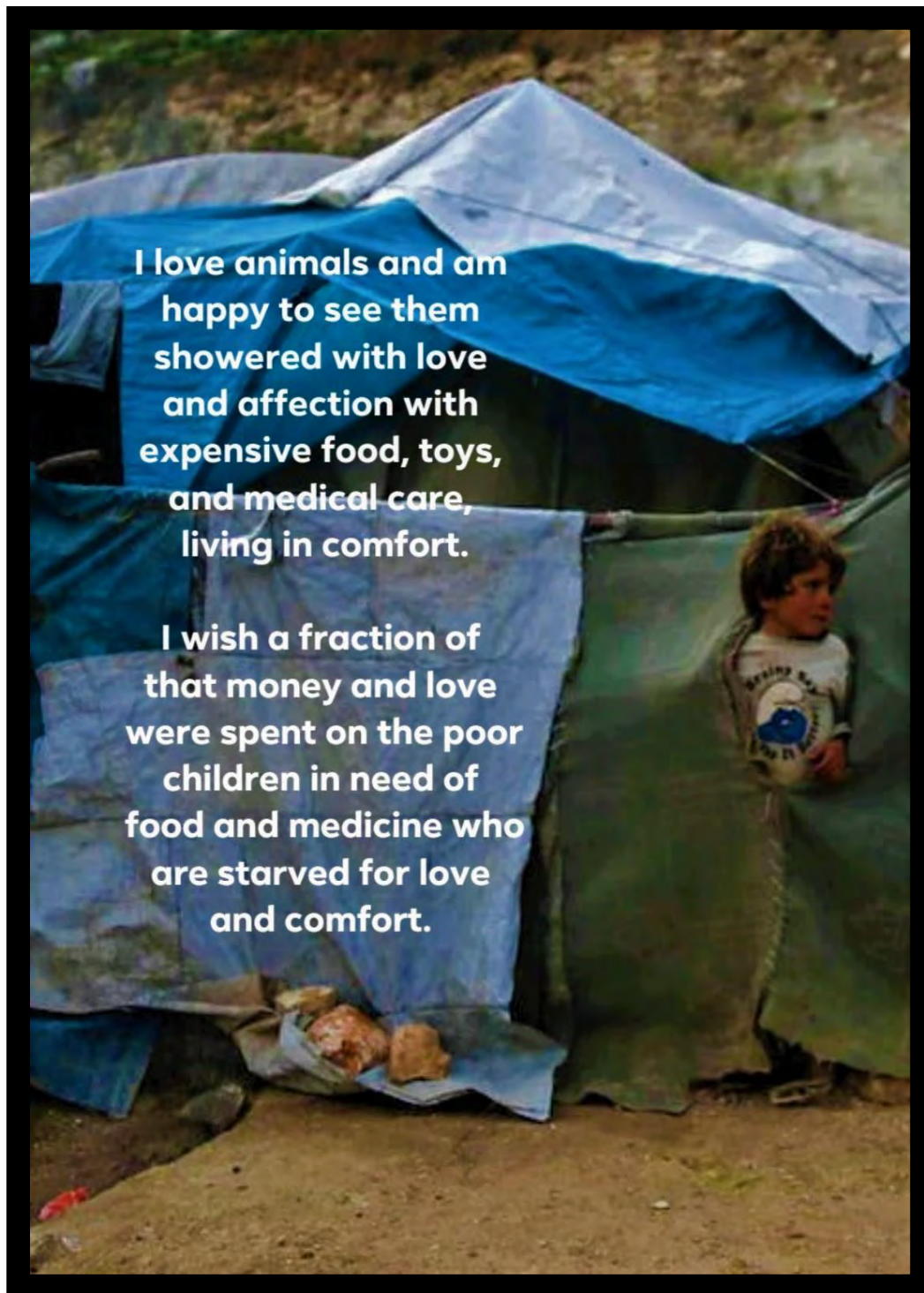
**Every sad, tragic  
event in our lives  
is like a fork in the  
road.**

**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



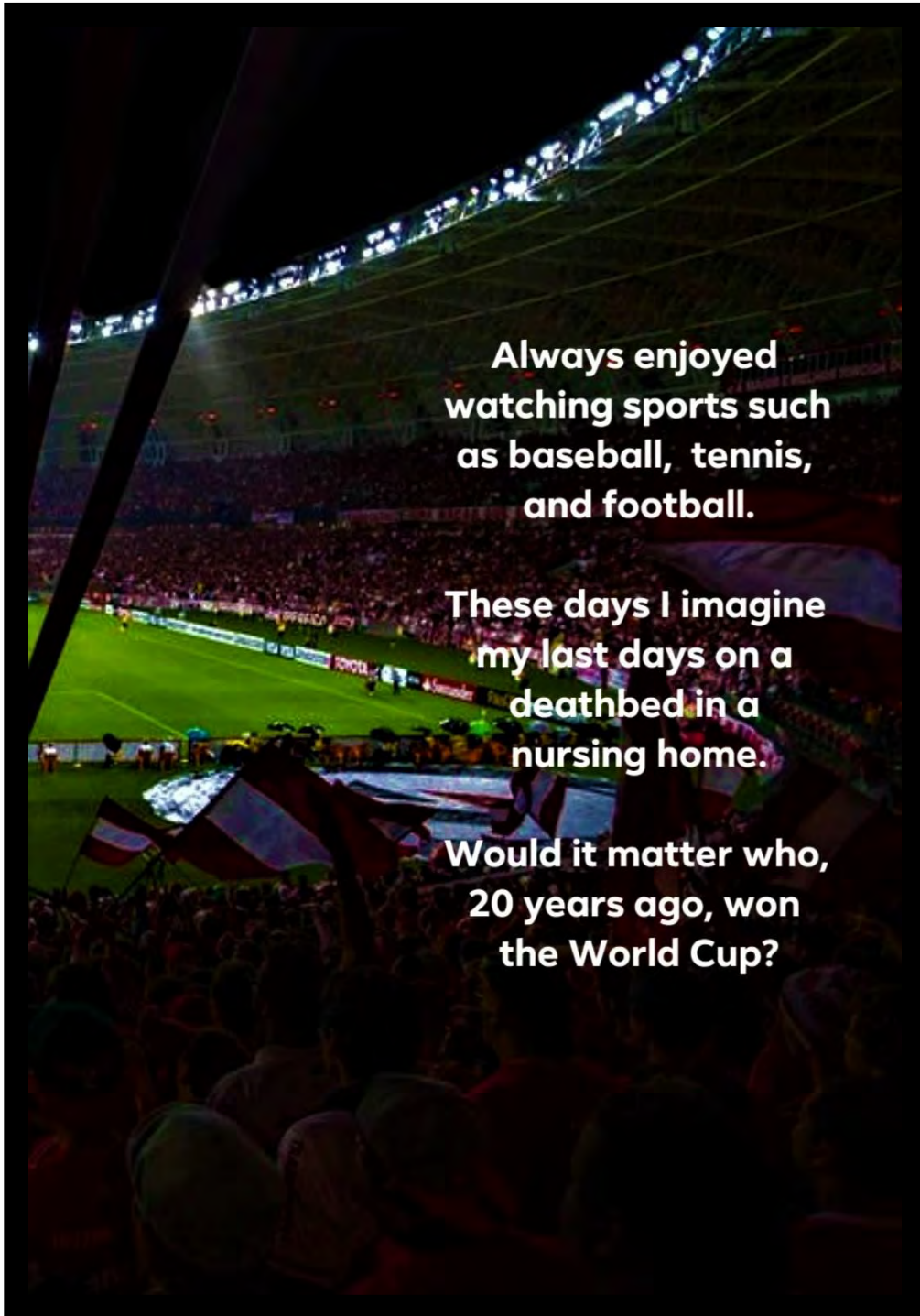
**We spend time, energy  
and money collecting  
stamps, watches and  
the rest.**

**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.

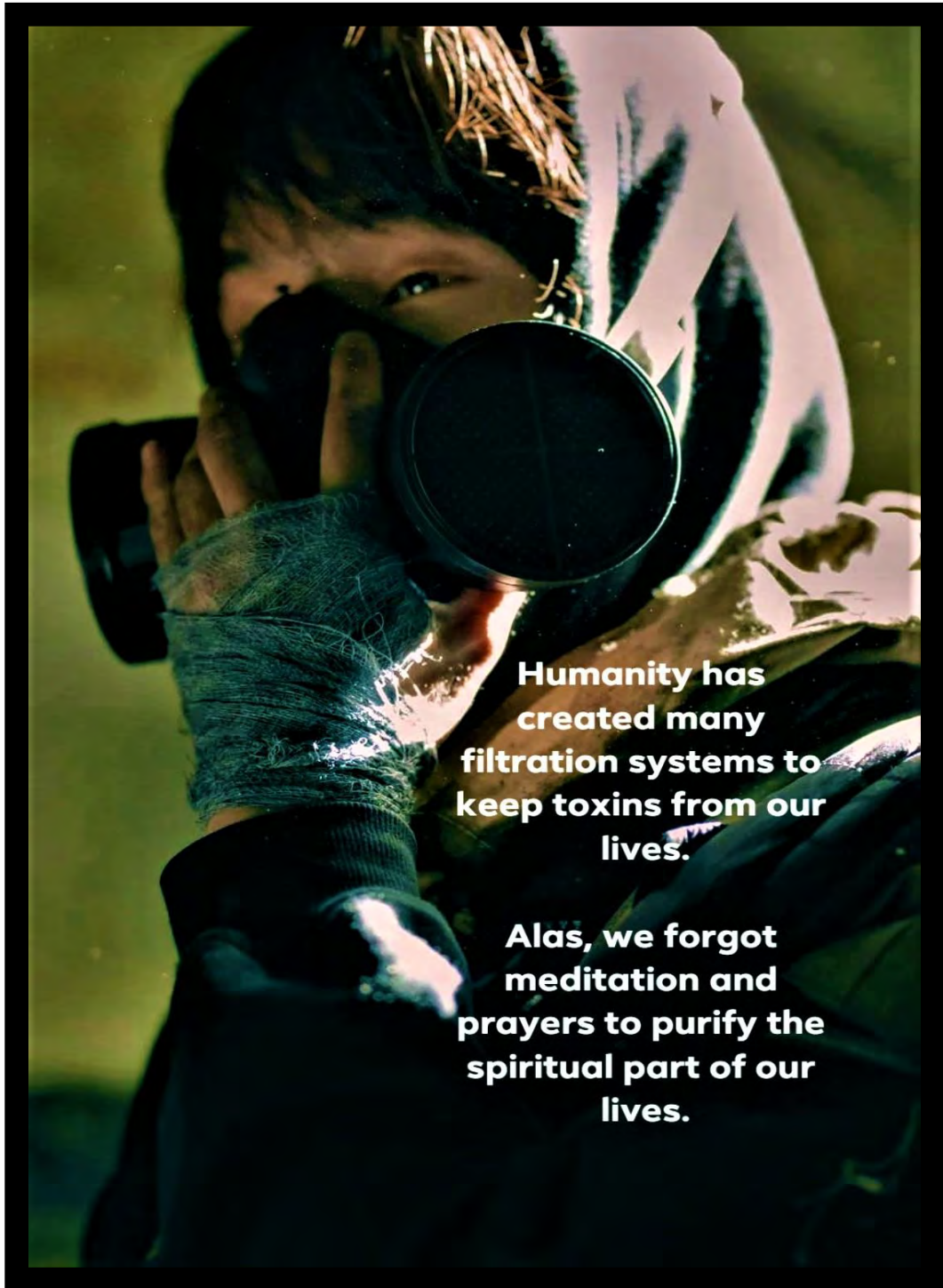
These days I imagine  
my last days on a  
deathbed in a  
nursing home.

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

*“A hair divides what is false and true.” ~Omar Khayyam*



# *Purify Your Souls*



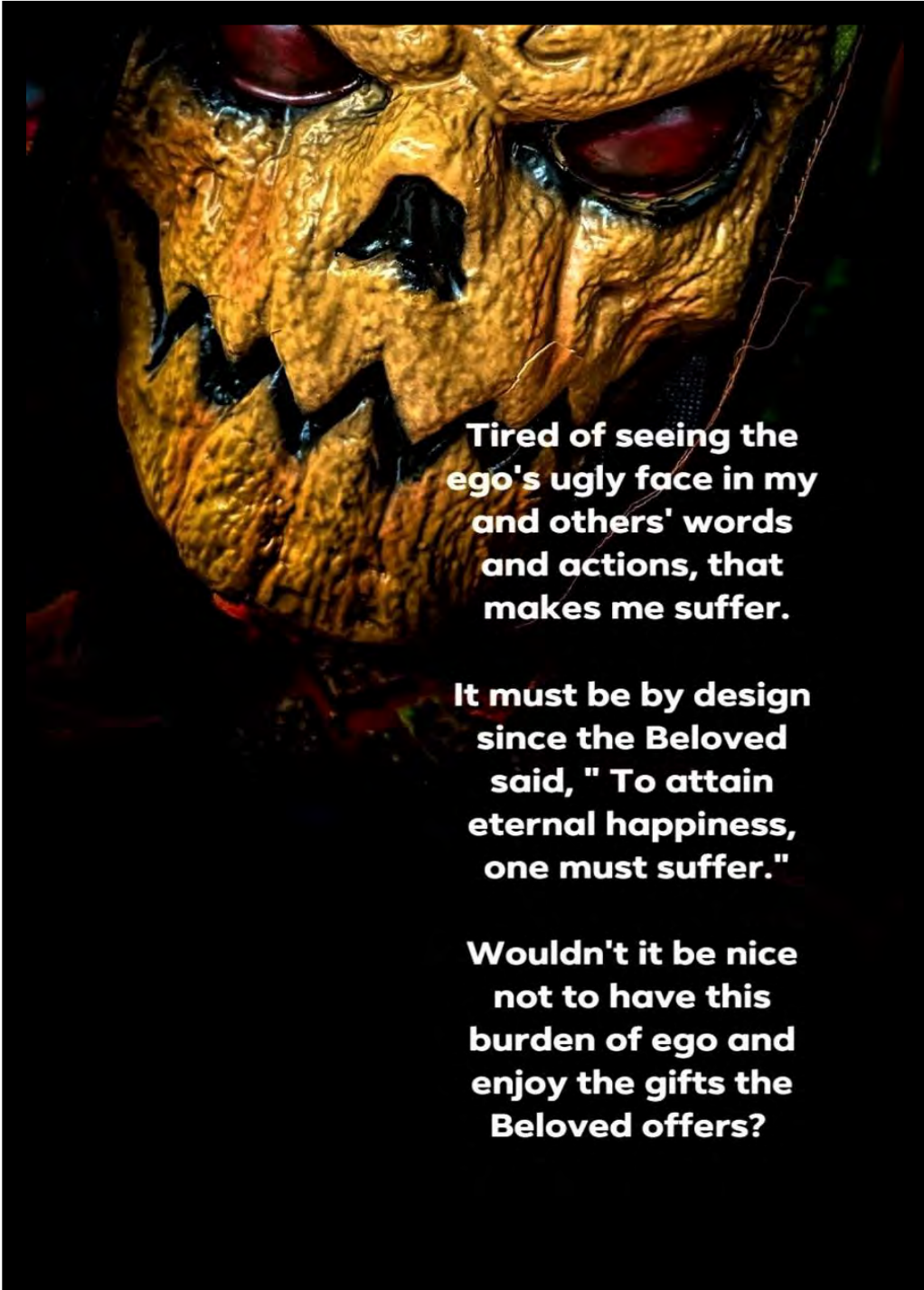
**Humanity has  
created many  
filtration systems to  
keep toxins from our  
lives.**

**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*



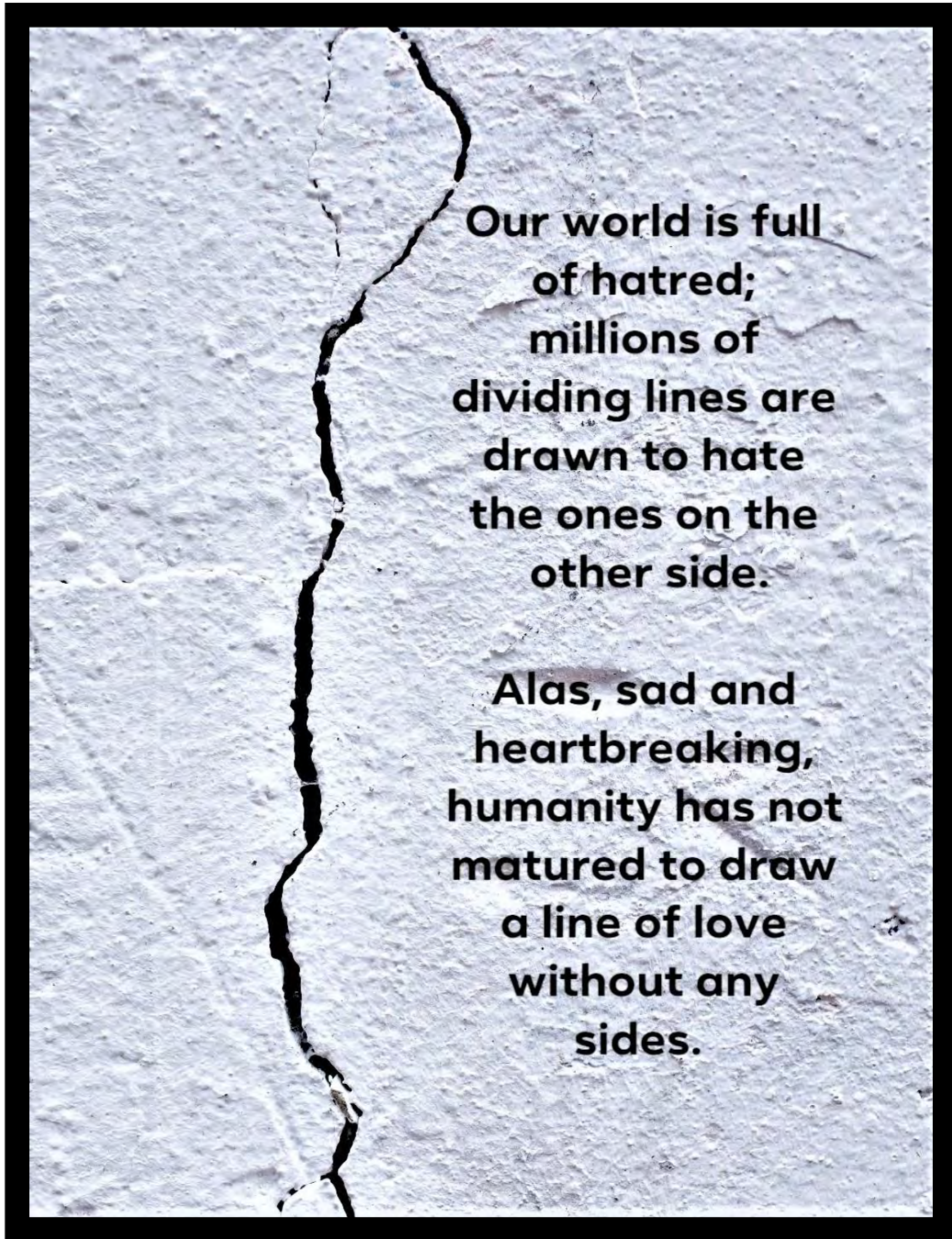
**Tired of seeing the ego's ugly face in my and others' words and actions, that makes me suffer.**

**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*



*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.

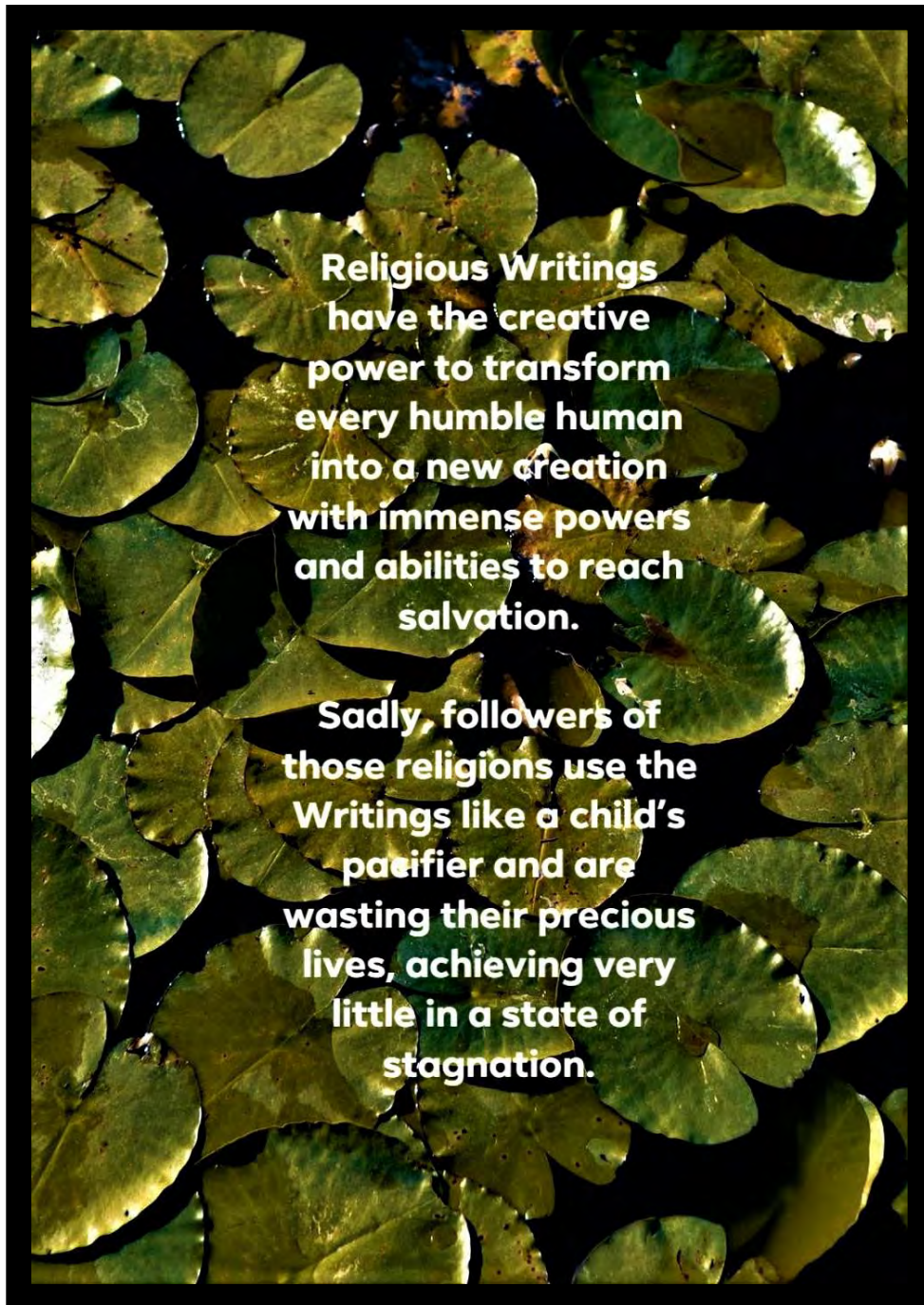
Your enemies test you and  
create hell in your life to  
bring you down, but they  
make you hardened,  
determined and more  
resolved.

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*

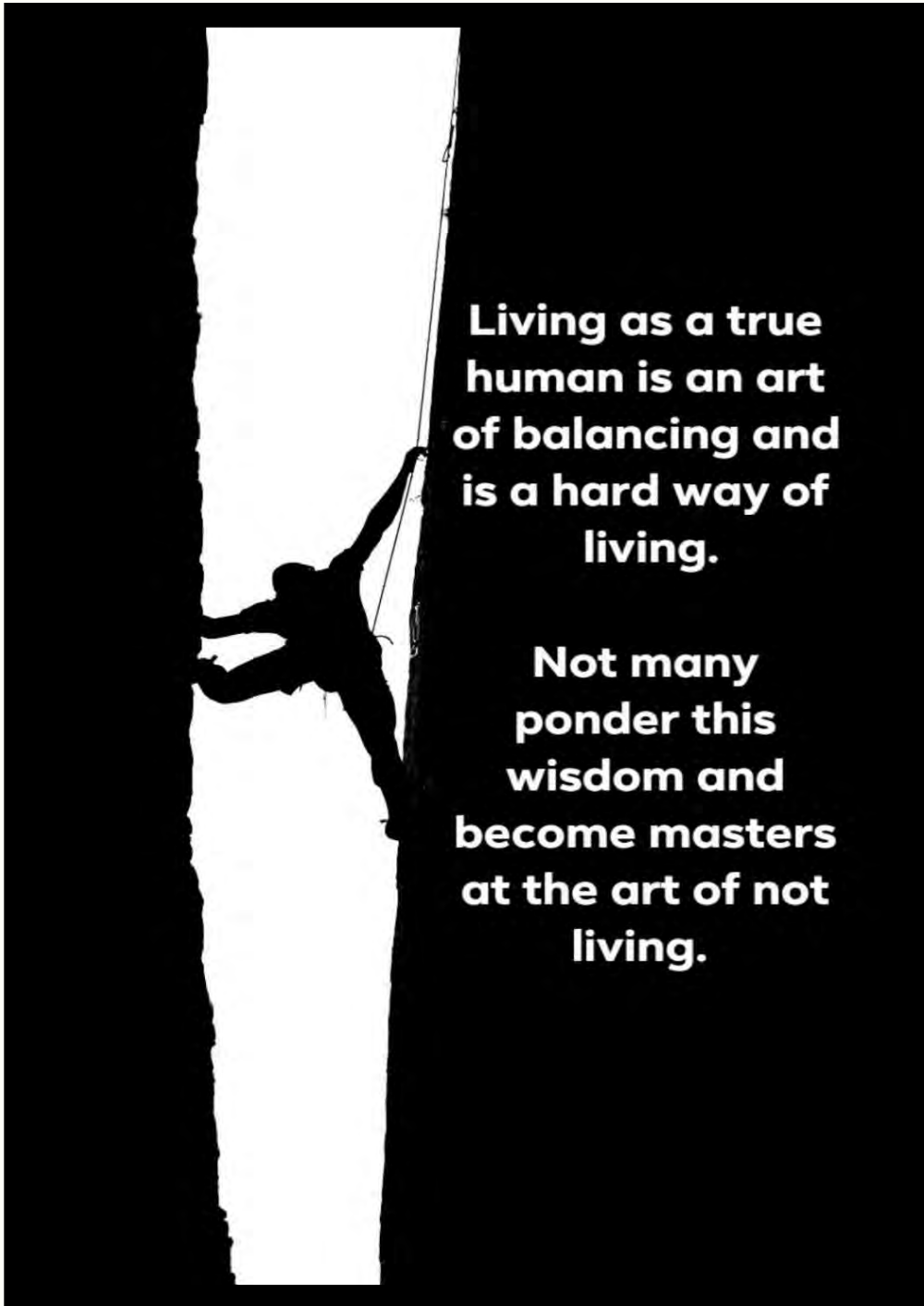


# *Religious Stagnation*



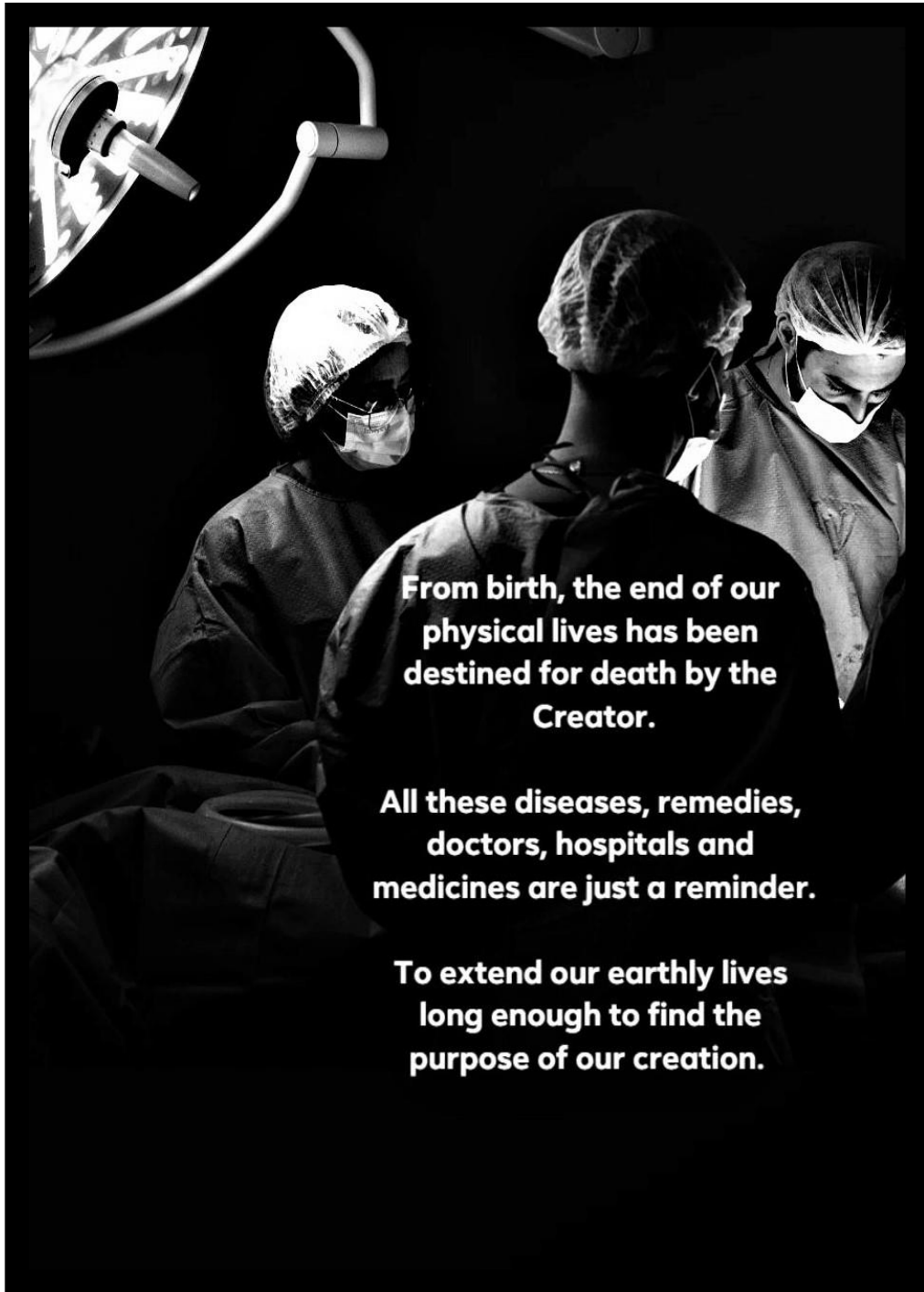
*“One thing and only one thing will unfailingly and alone secure the undoubted triumph of this sacred Cause, namely, the extent to which our own inner life and private character mirror forth in their manifold aspects the splendor of those eternal principles proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh.” ~Shoghi Effendi*

# *The Art of Living*



*“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.**

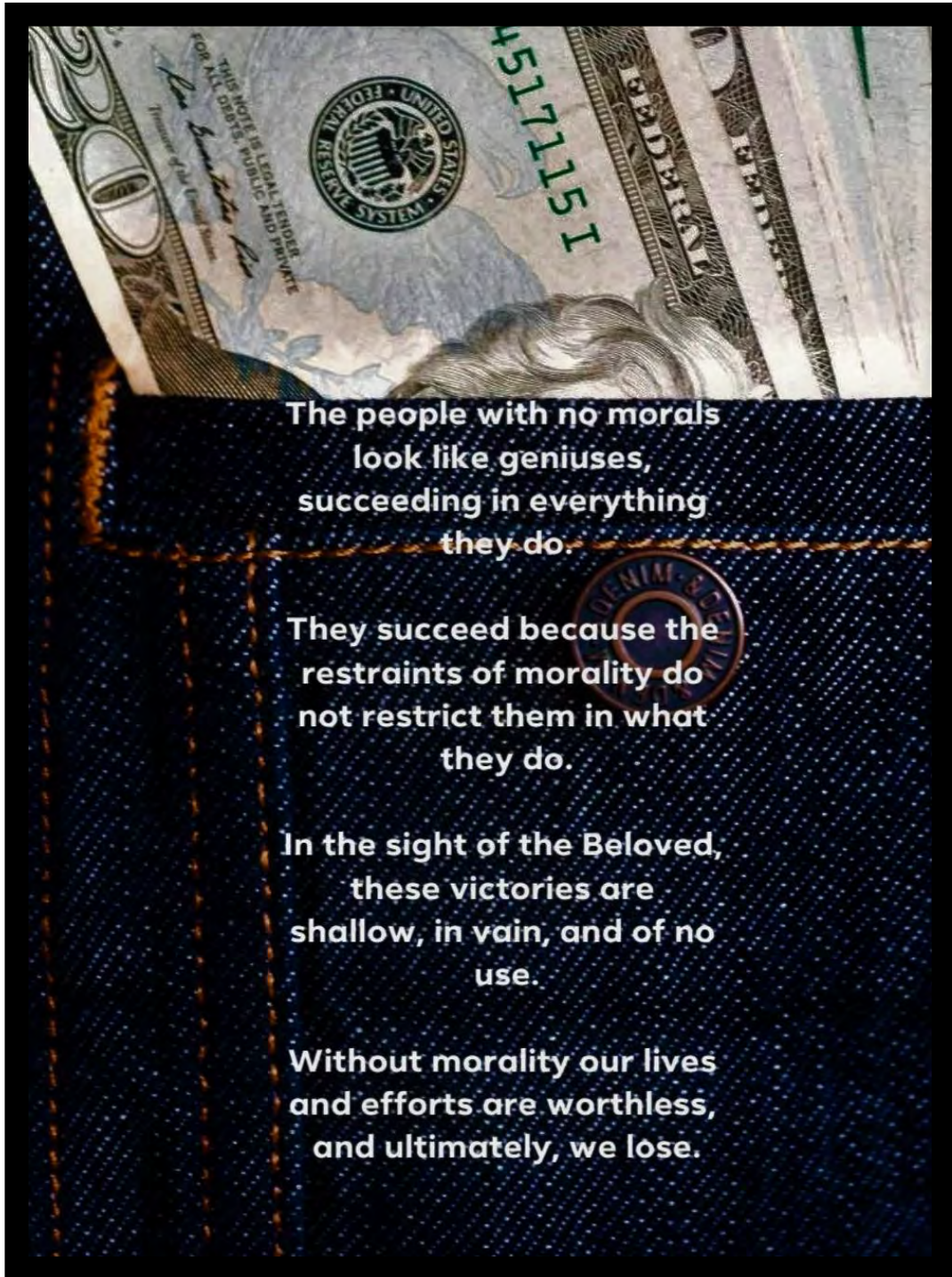
**All these diseases, remedies,  
doctors, hospitals and  
medicines are just a reminder.**

**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*

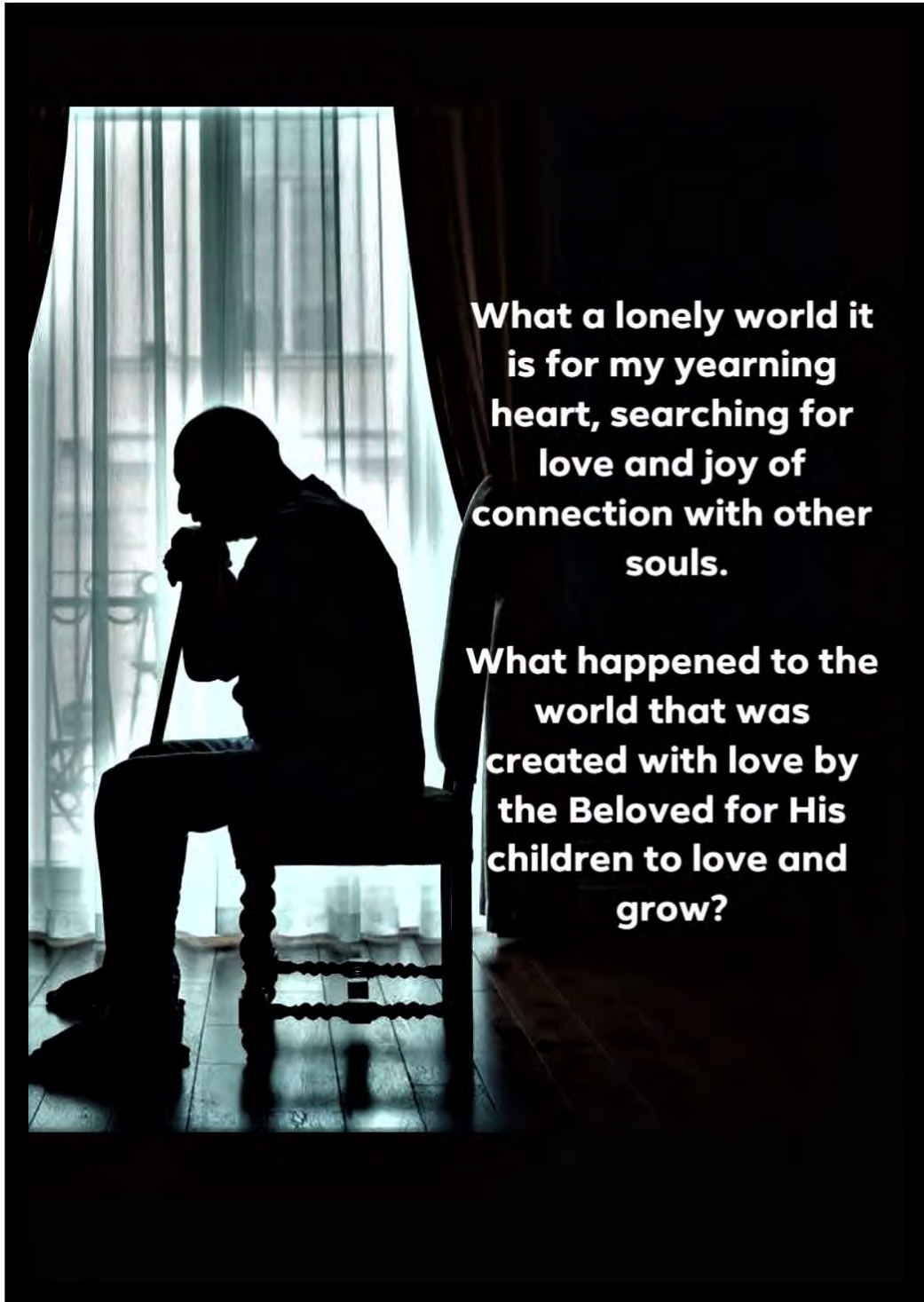


# *Without Morality, we Lose*



*“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*

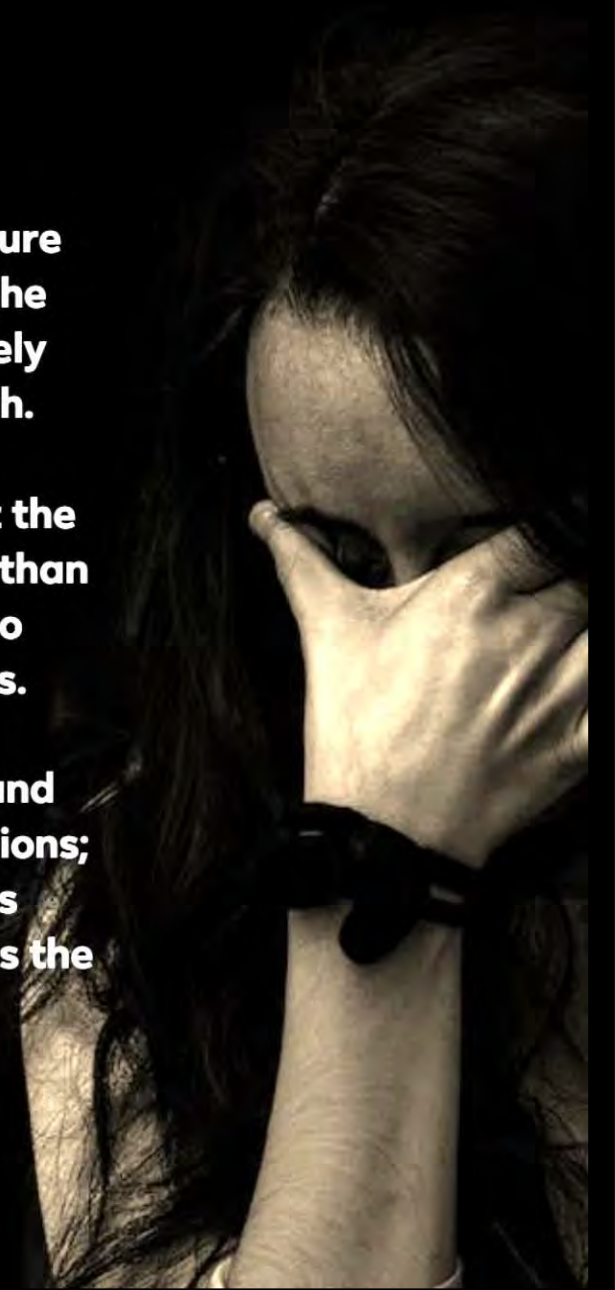


# *The Loud Cries of the Rich*

**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.**

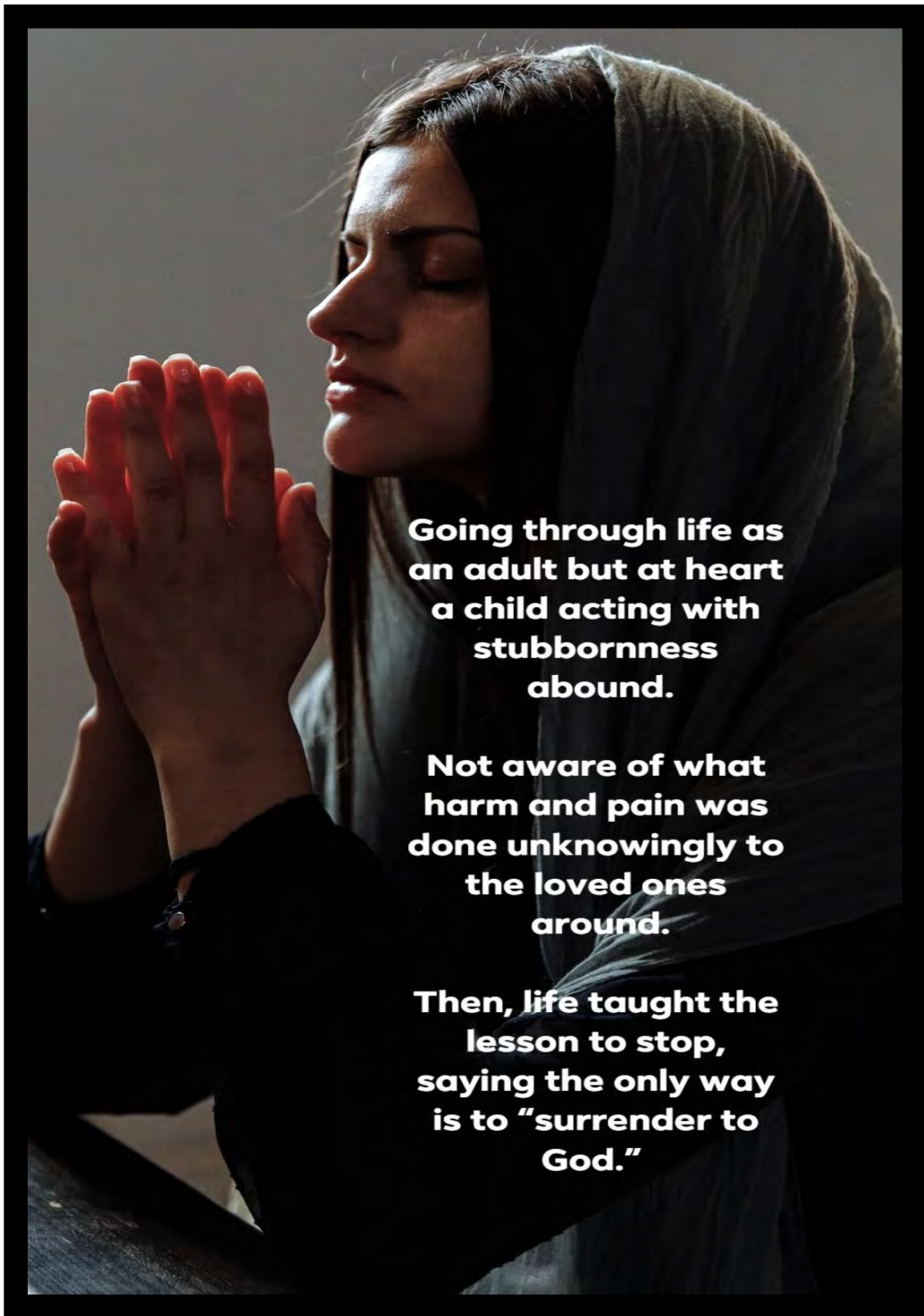
**One has money and  
still asks for donations;  
the other wants  
nothing and suffers the  
agonies.**



*“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.**

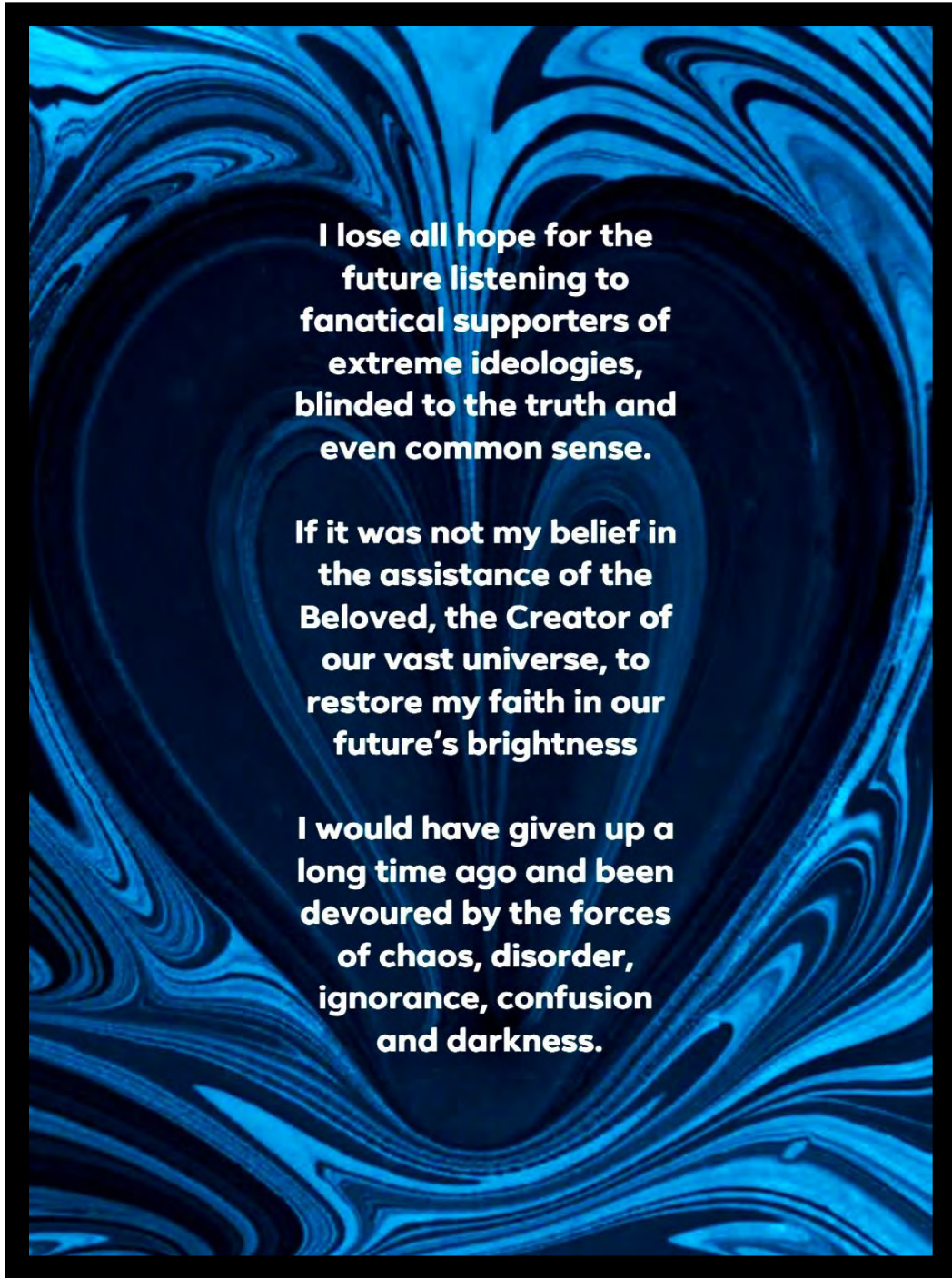
**We must widen our vision and vitalize our spiritual life, or our future is in doubt.**

**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*

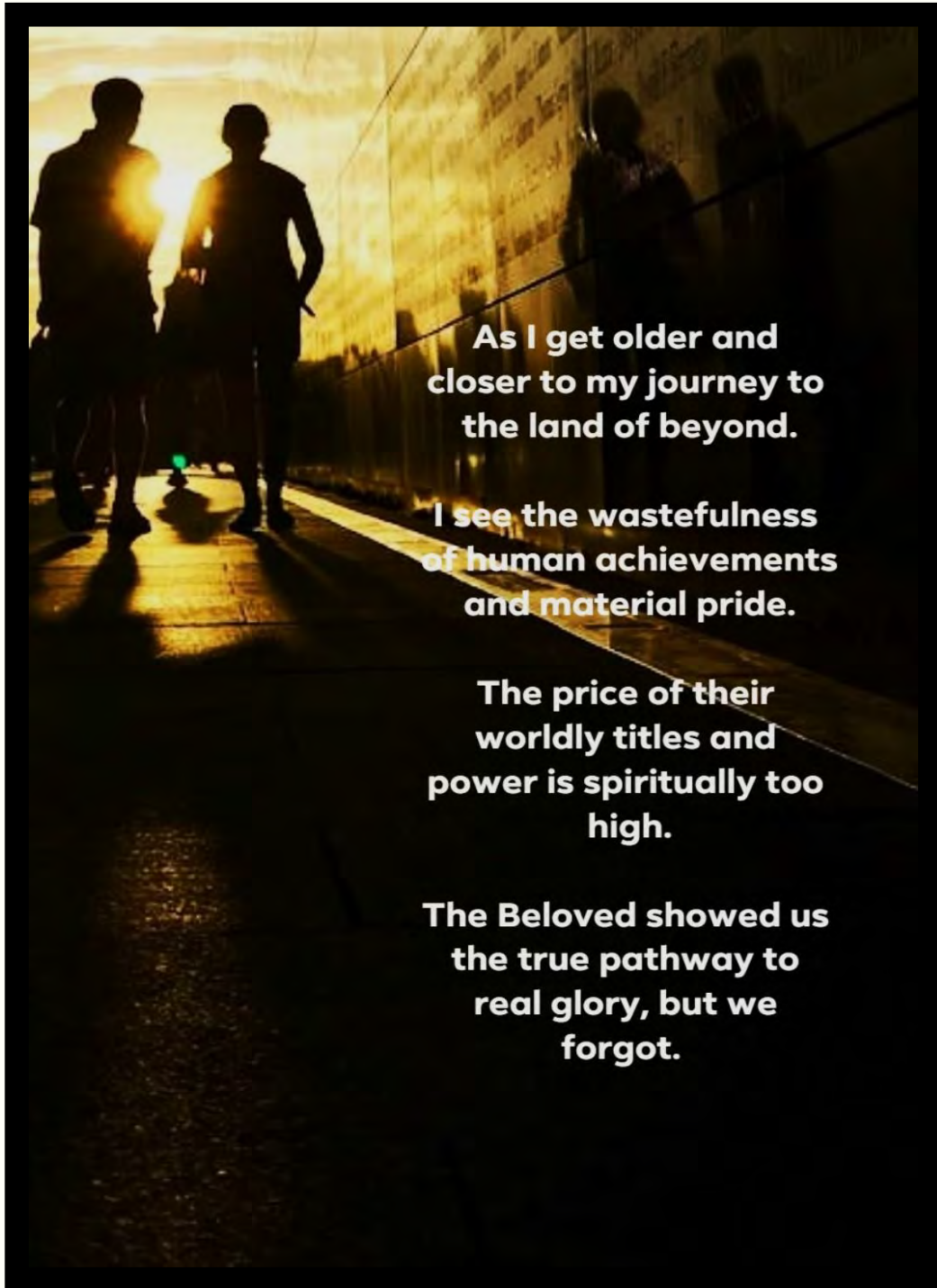
# *Agents of Chaos*



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

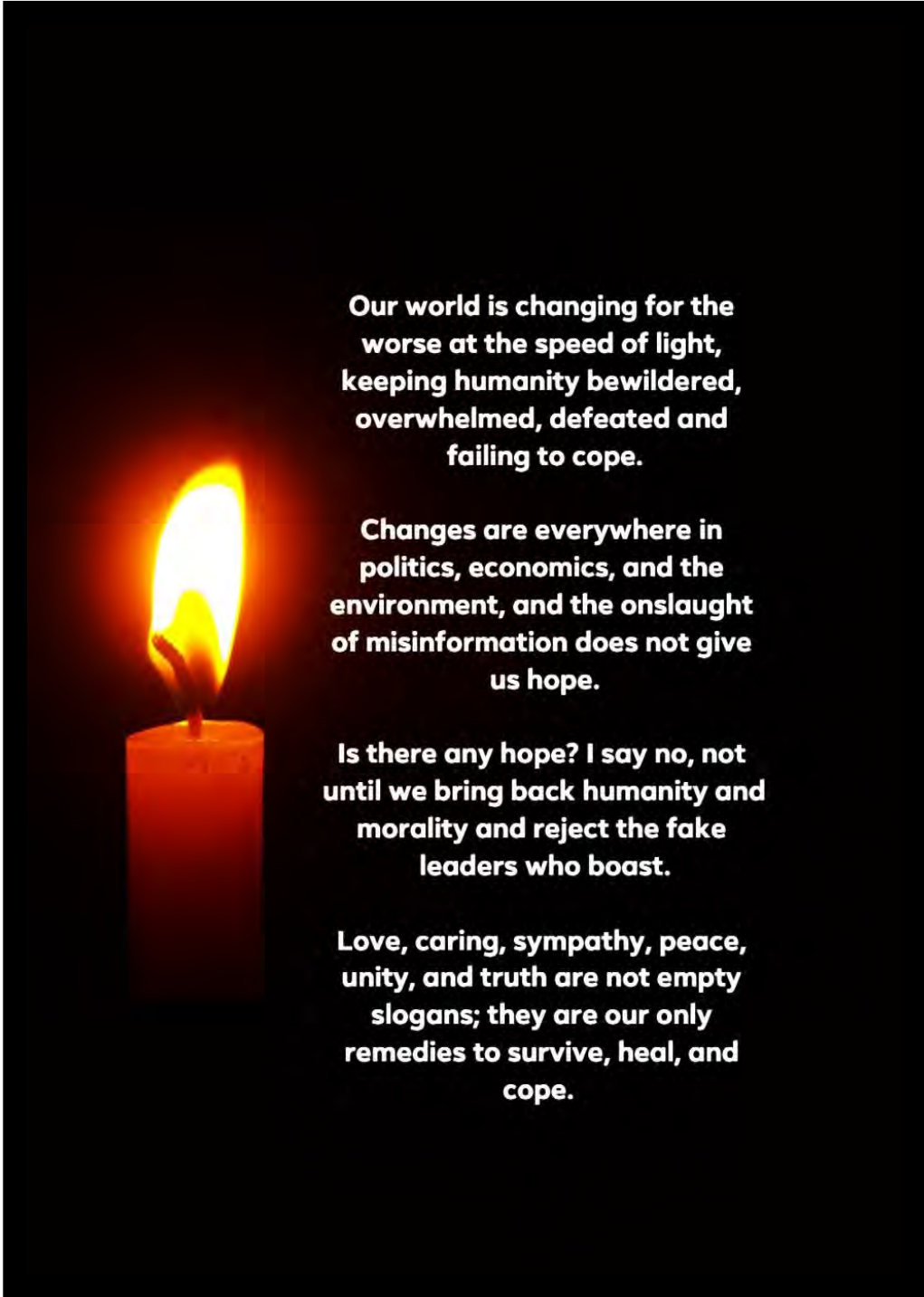


# Real Glory



*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.**

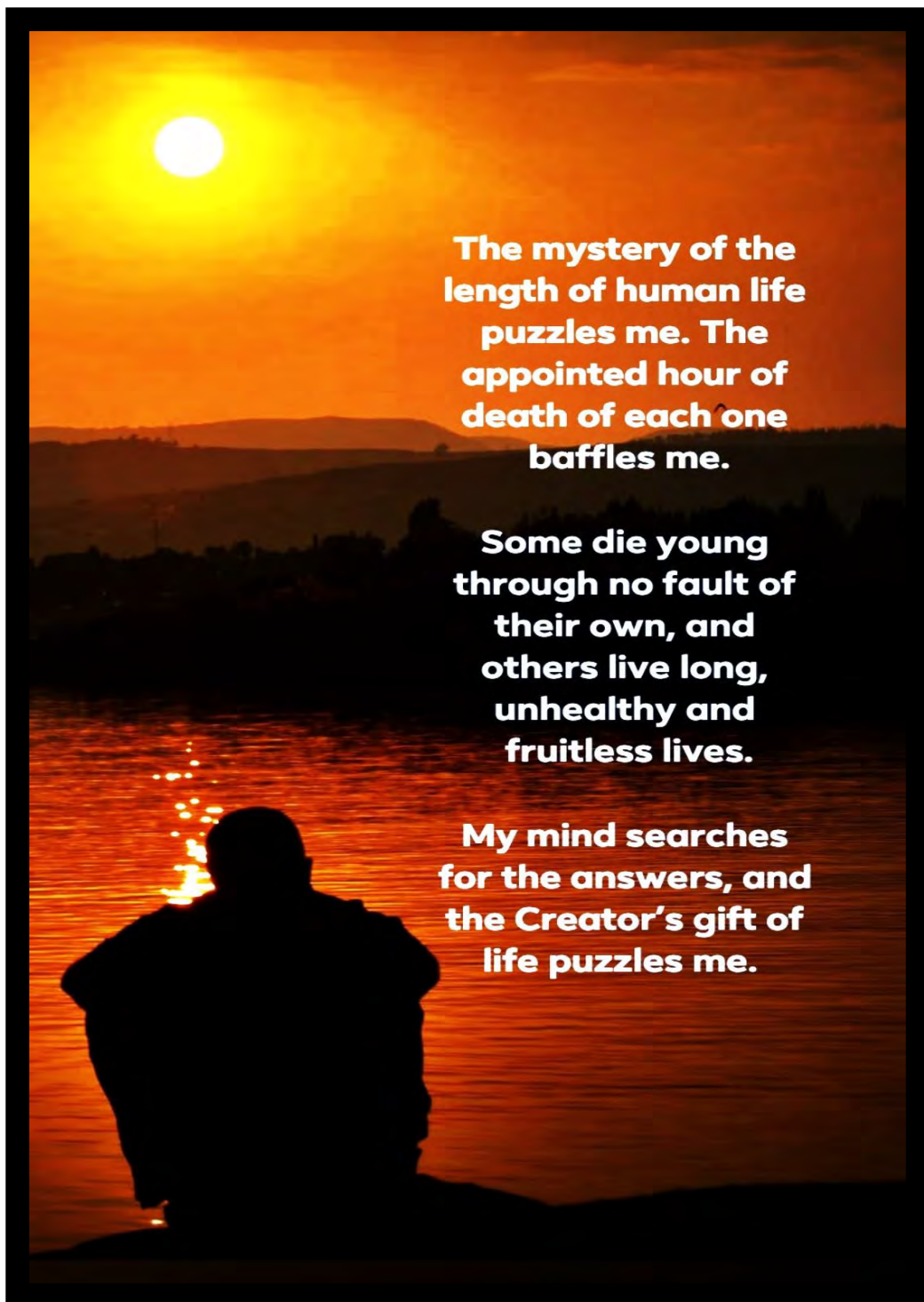
**Changes are everywhere in politics, economics, and the environment, and the onslaught of misinformation does not give us hope.**

**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*



**The mystery of the length of human life puzzles me. The appointed hour of death of each one baffles me.**

**Some die young through no fault of their own, and others live long, unhealthy and fruitless lives.**

**My mind searches for the answers, and the Creator's gift of life puzzles me.**

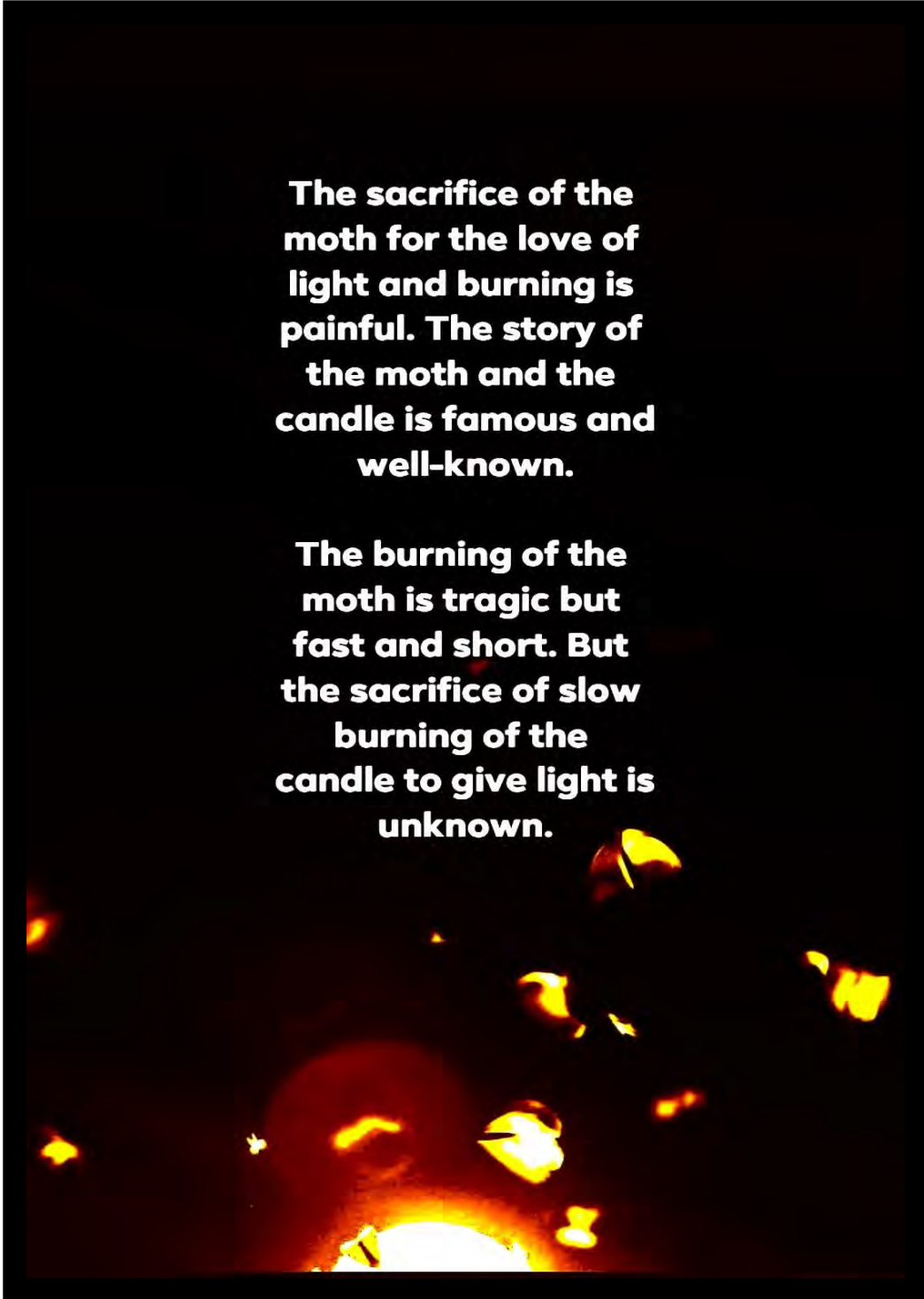
*“In this world he must prepare himself for the life beyond. That which he needs in the world of the Kingdom must be obtained here.” ~Abdu'l-Bahá*



# *The Candle and the Moth*

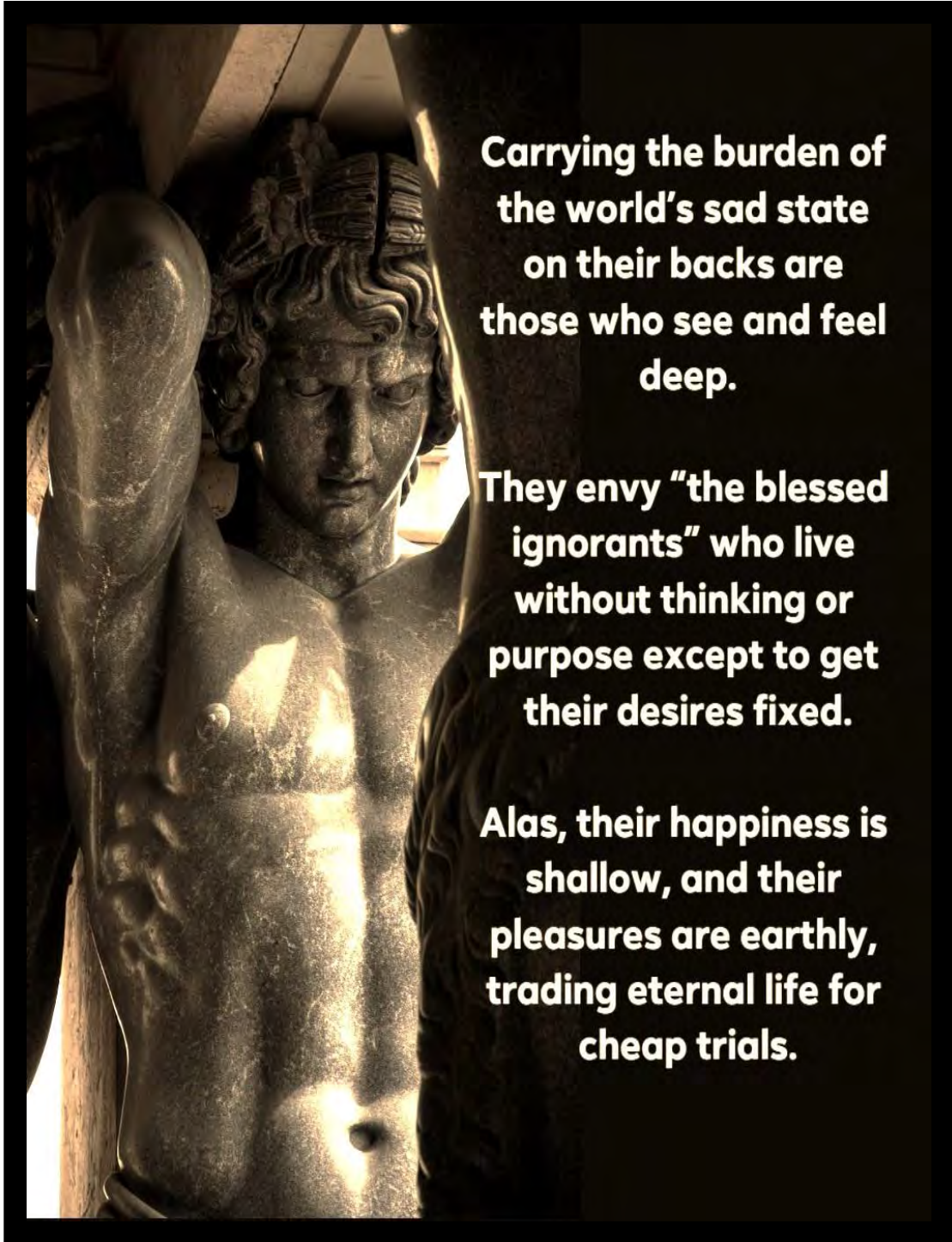
**The sacrifice of the moth for the love of light and burning is painful. The story of the moth and the candle is famous and well-known.**

**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*



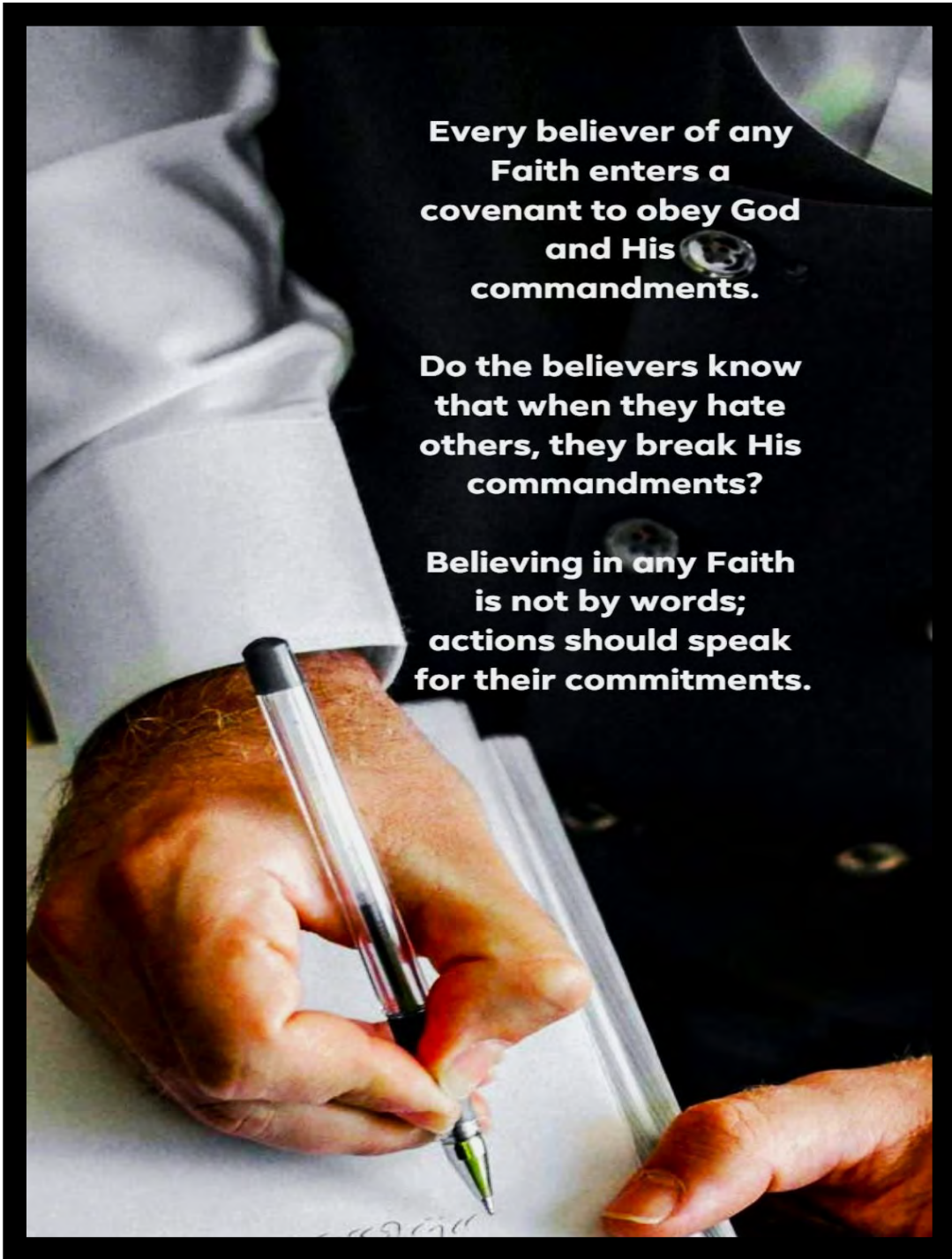
# *Love is an Empty Word*



*"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*



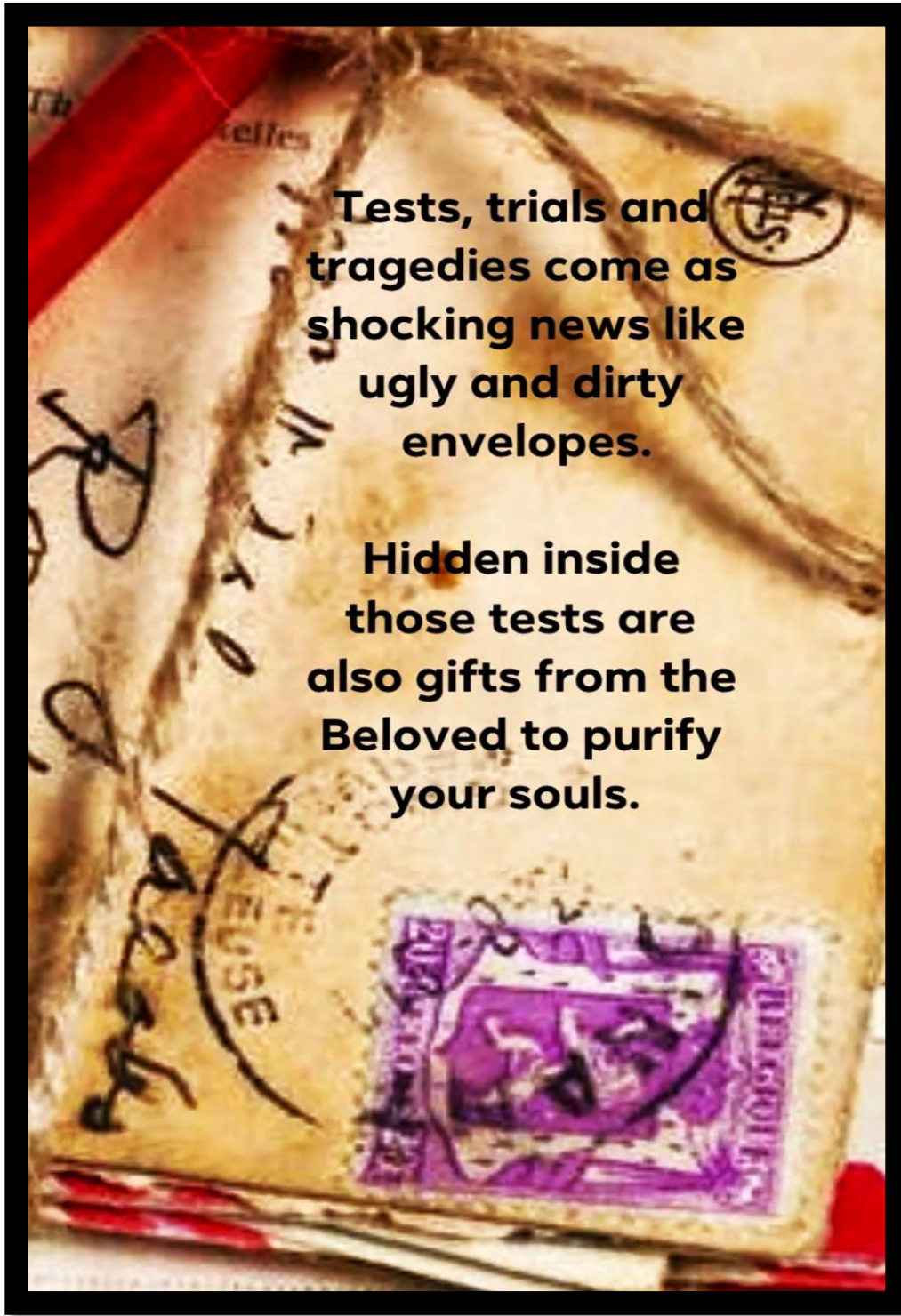
**Every believer of any  
Faith enters a  
covenant to obey God  
and His  
commandments.**

**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*



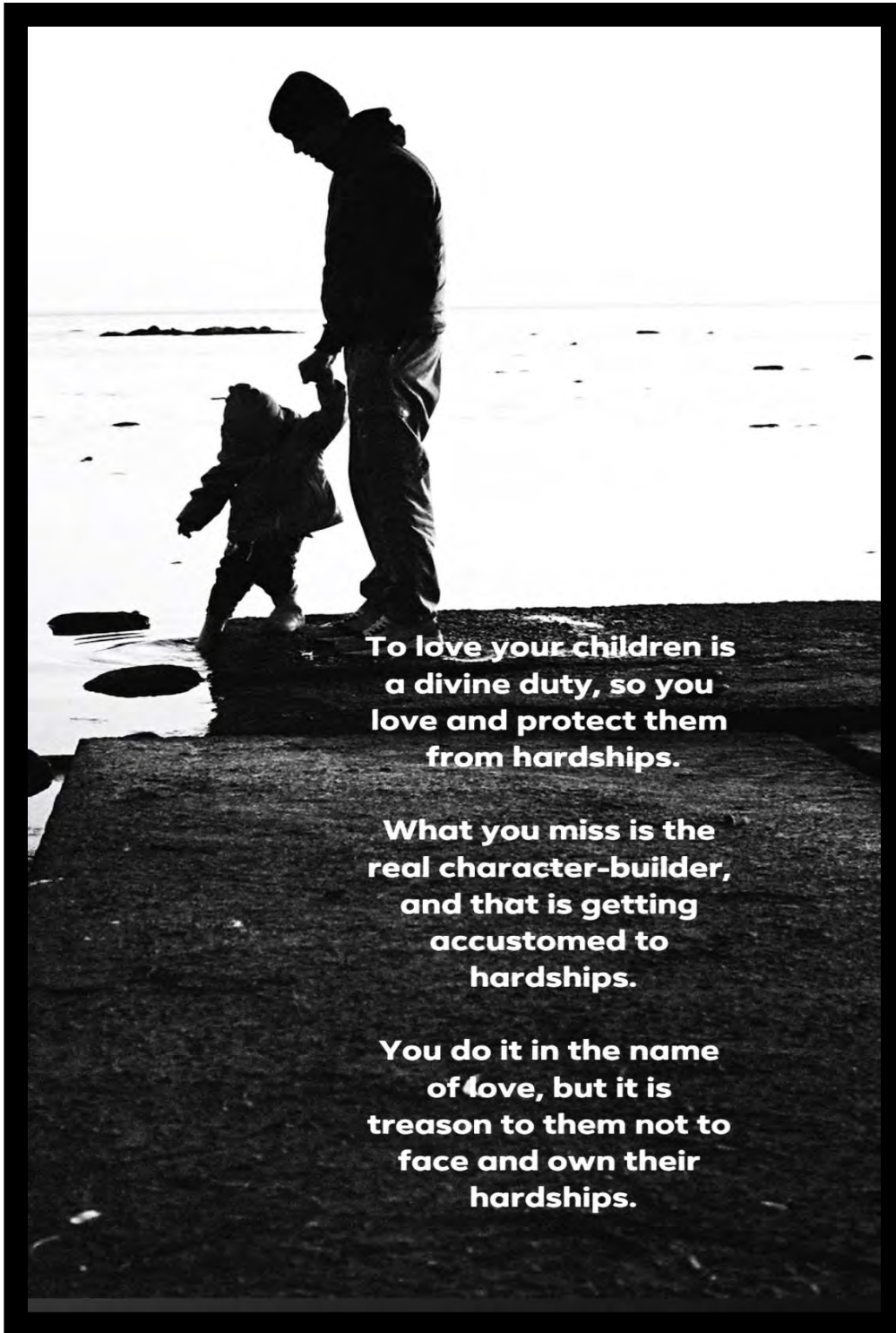
**Tests, trials and tragedies come as shocking news like ugly and dirty envelopes.**

**Hidden inside those tests are also gifts from the Beloved to purify your souls.**

*“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.**

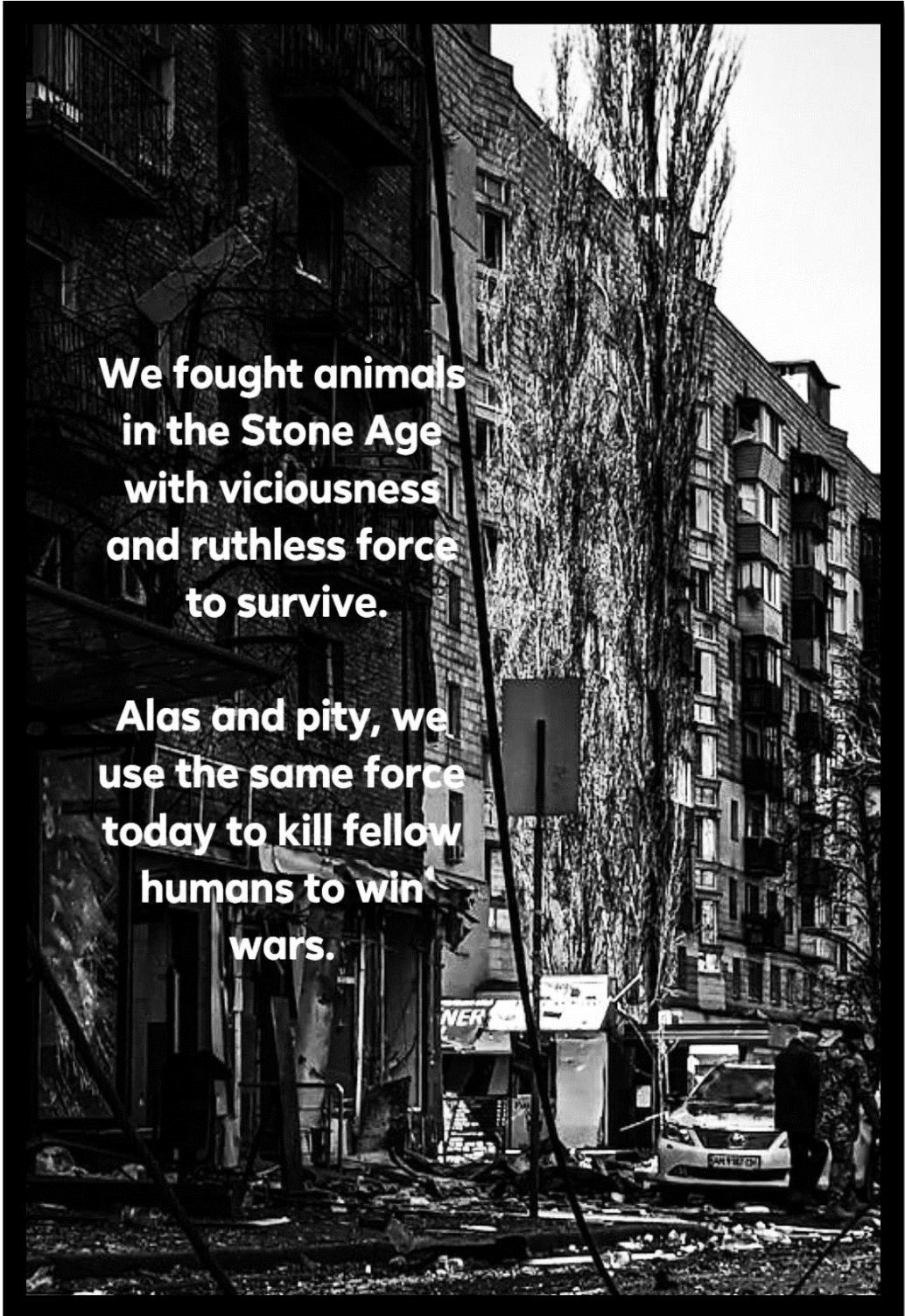
**What you miss is the real character-builder, and that is getting accustomed to hardships.**

**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*

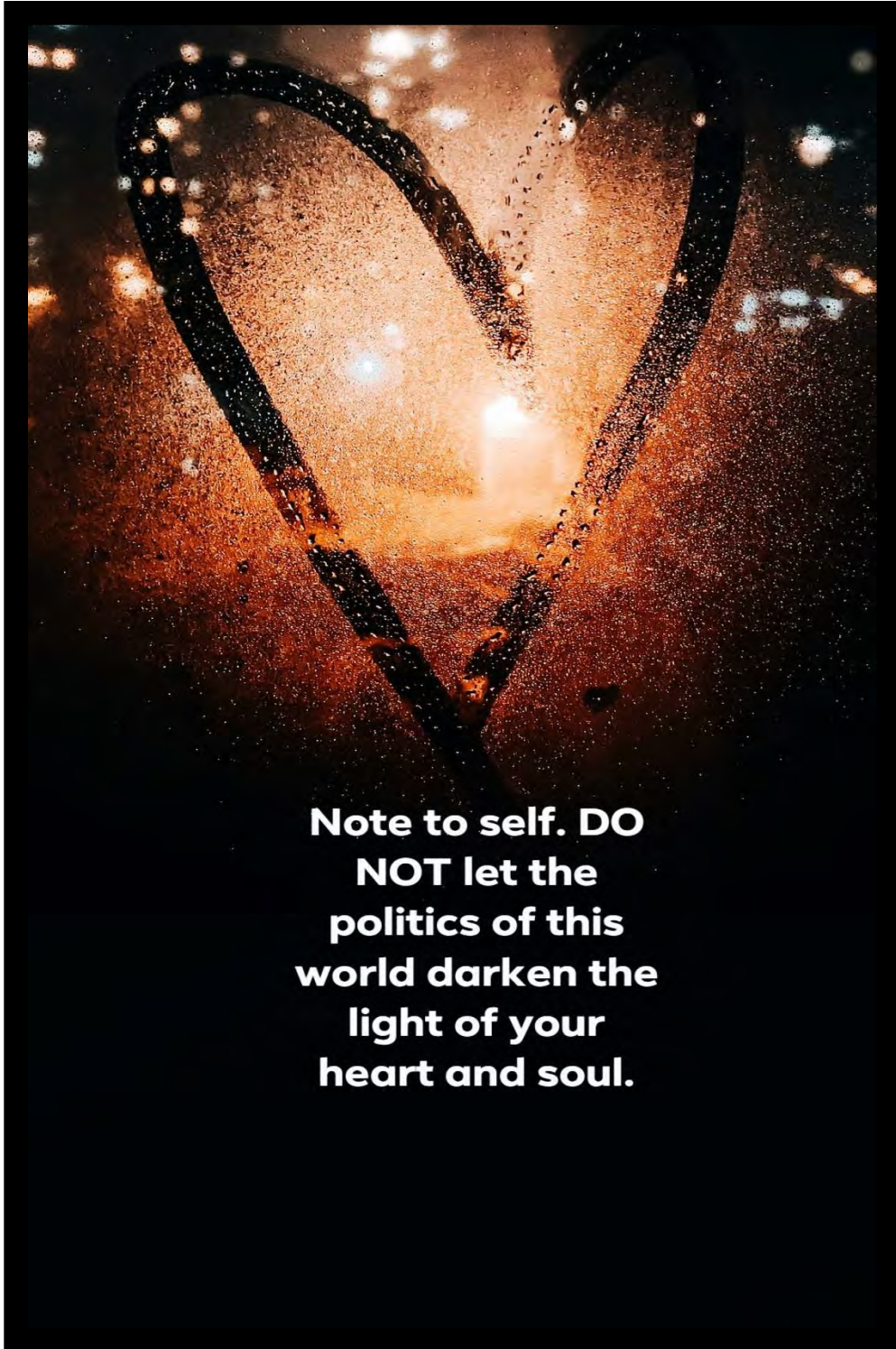


**We fought animals  
in the Stone Age  
with viciousness  
and ruthless force  
to survive.**

**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*

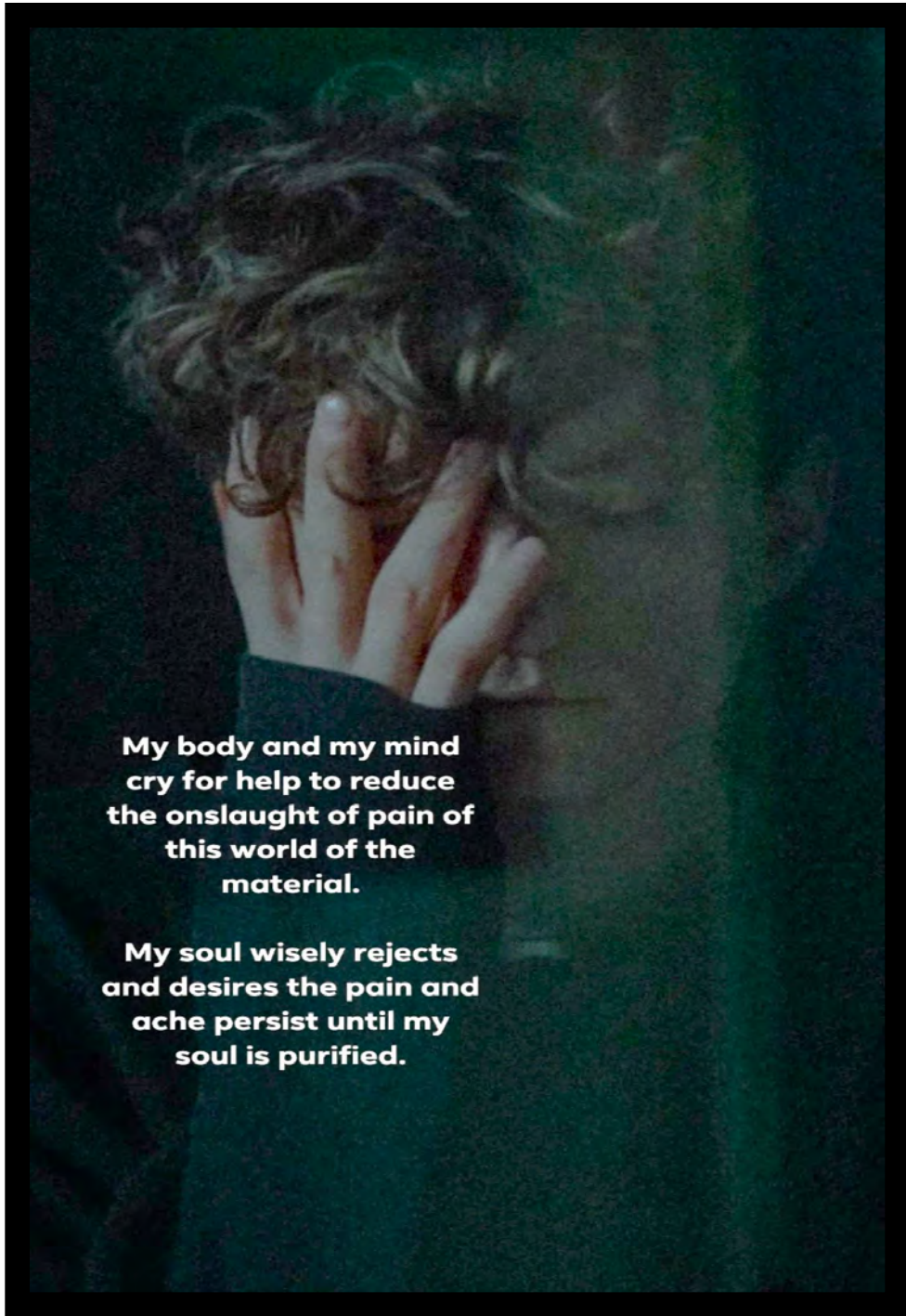


**Note to self. DO  
NOT let the  
politics of this  
world darken the  
light of your  
heart and soul.**

*“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*



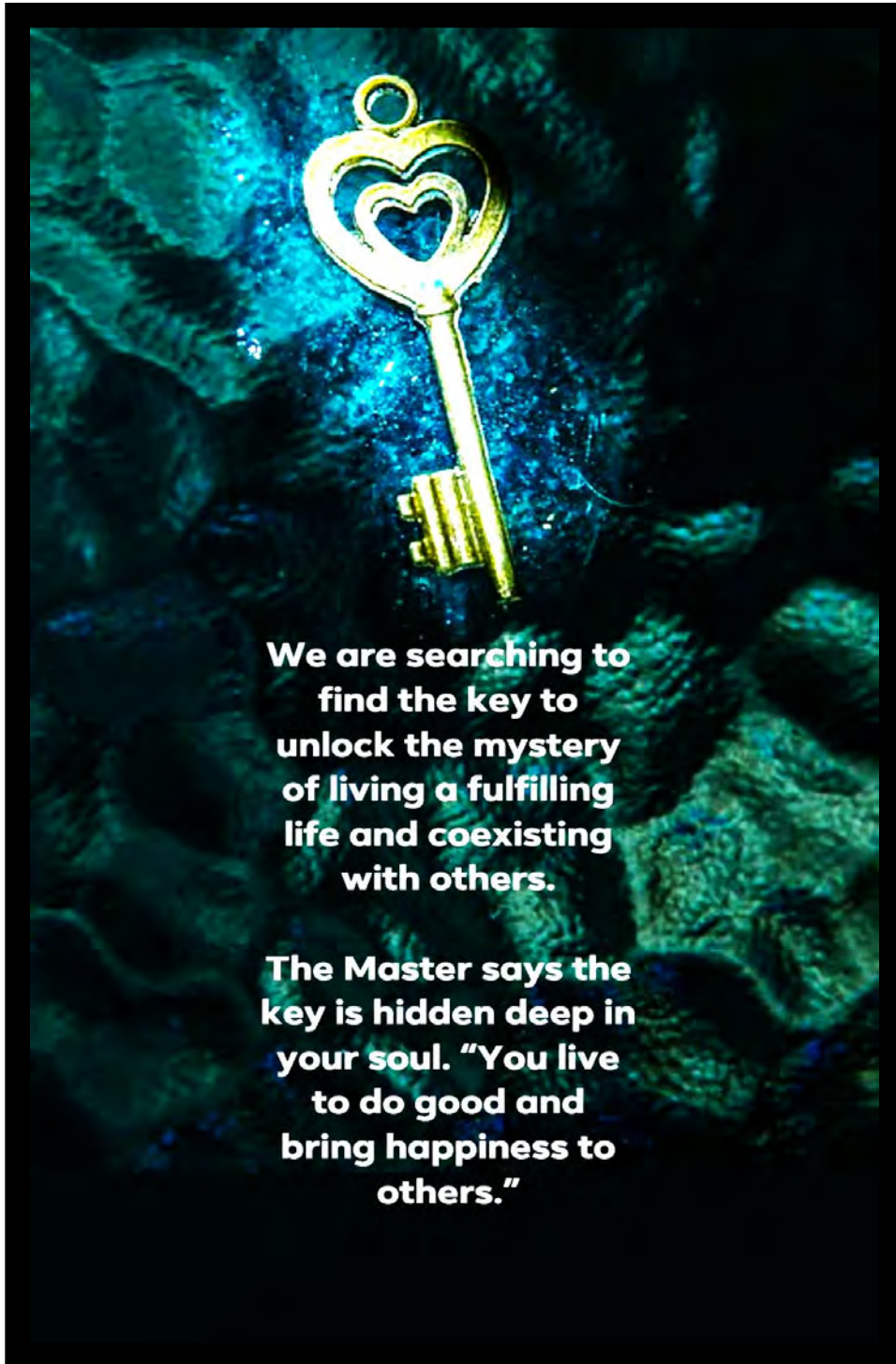
**My body and my mind  
cry for help to reduce  
the onslaught of pain of  
this world of the  
material.**

**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."**

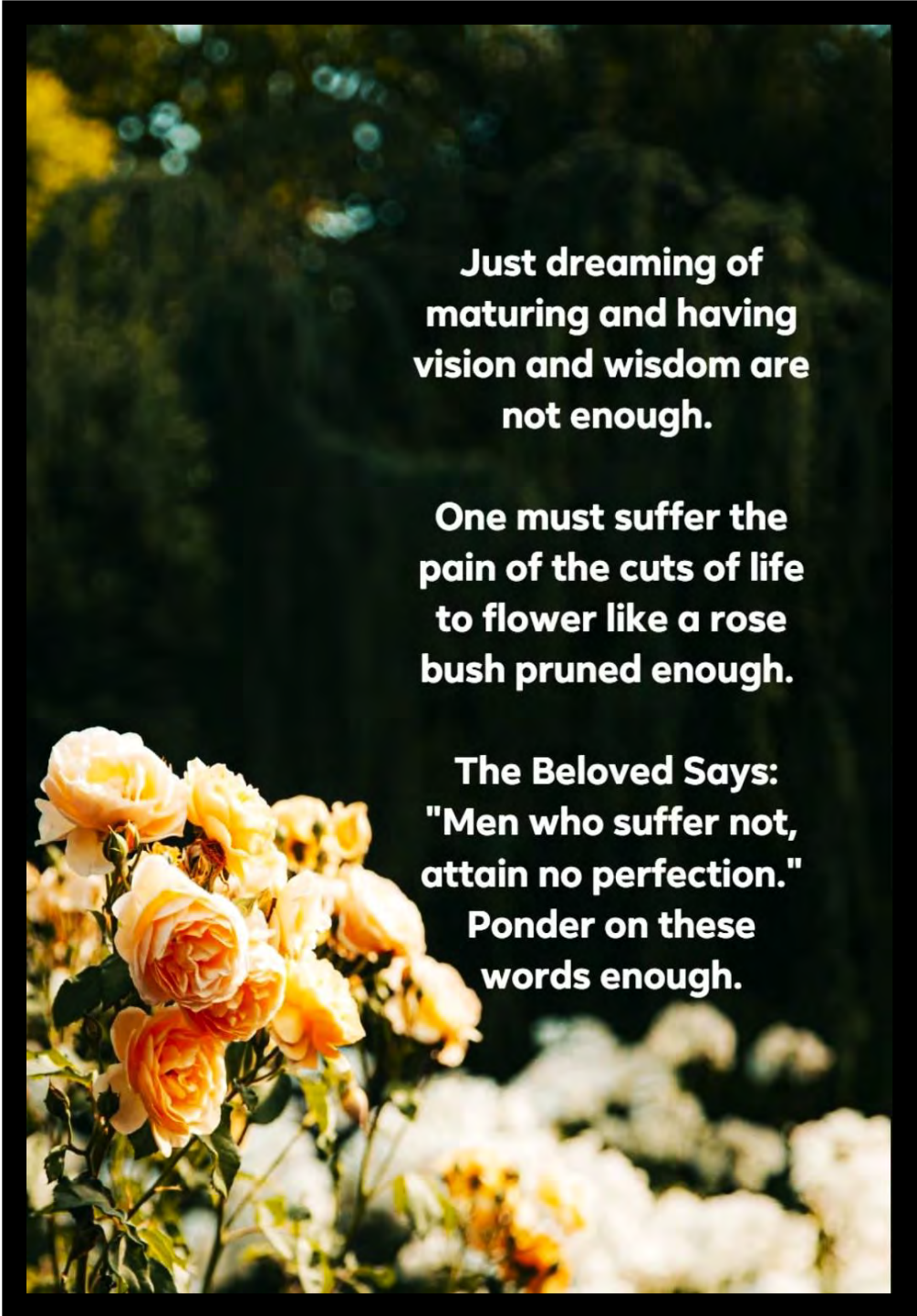
*For a day, just for one day, talk about that which disturbs no one and bring some peace into those beautiful eyes. ~Hafez*

# *Nurturers of My Soul*



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

# *No Pain, No Gain*



**Just dreaming of  
maturing and having  
vision and wisdom are  
not enough.**

**One must suffer the  
pain of the cuts of life  
to flower like a rose  
bush pruned enough.**

**The Beloved Says:  
"Men who suffer not,  
attain no perfection."  
Ponder on these  
words enough.**

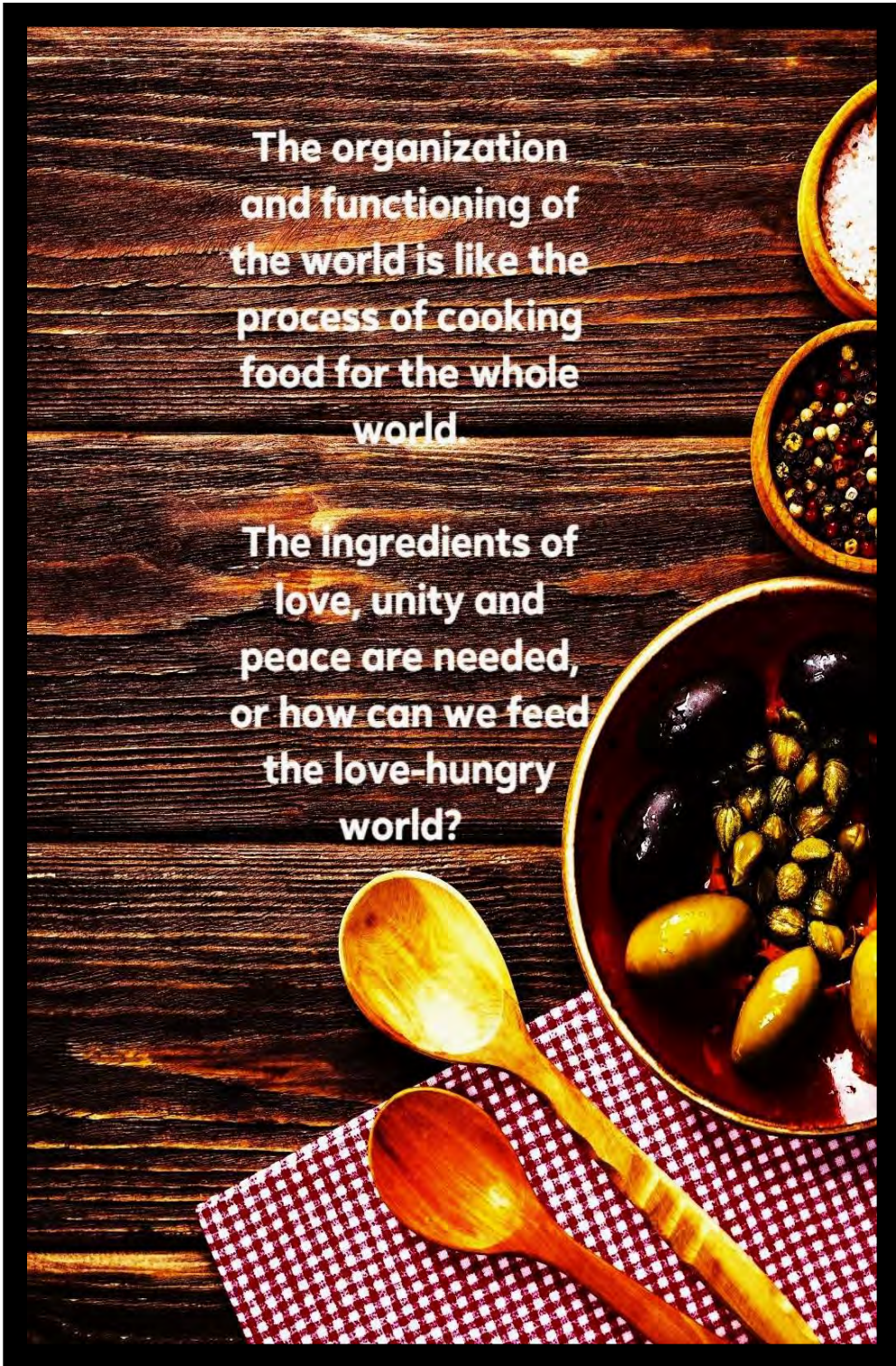
*"Men who suffer not, attain no perfection." ~Abdu'l-Baha*



# *Food for the Hungry World*

The organization  
and functioning of  
the world is like the  
process of cooking  
food for the whole  
world

The ingredients of  
love, unity and  
peace are needed,  
or how can we feed  
the love-hungry  
world?



*“Love the whole world as a mother loves her only child.” – Buddha*

# *Loneliness*



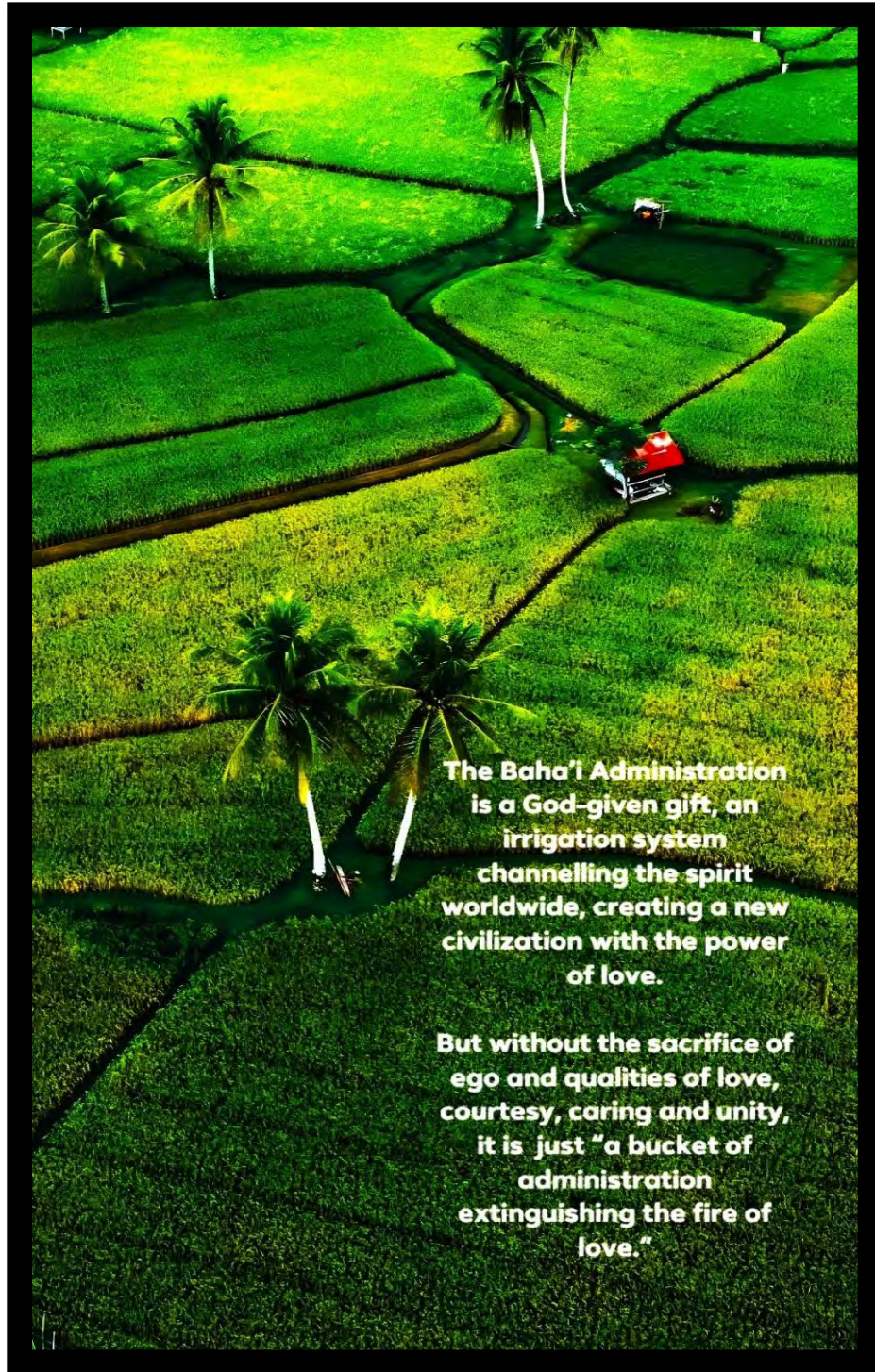
**The greatest killer in  
the world, attacking  
the souls of millions, is  
loneliness.**

**Humanity is your  
family. Go out, meet  
your family and forget  
your loneliness.**

*“Ye are all the leaves of one tree and the drops of one ocean.” ~Baha’u’llah*



# *Baha'i Administration*



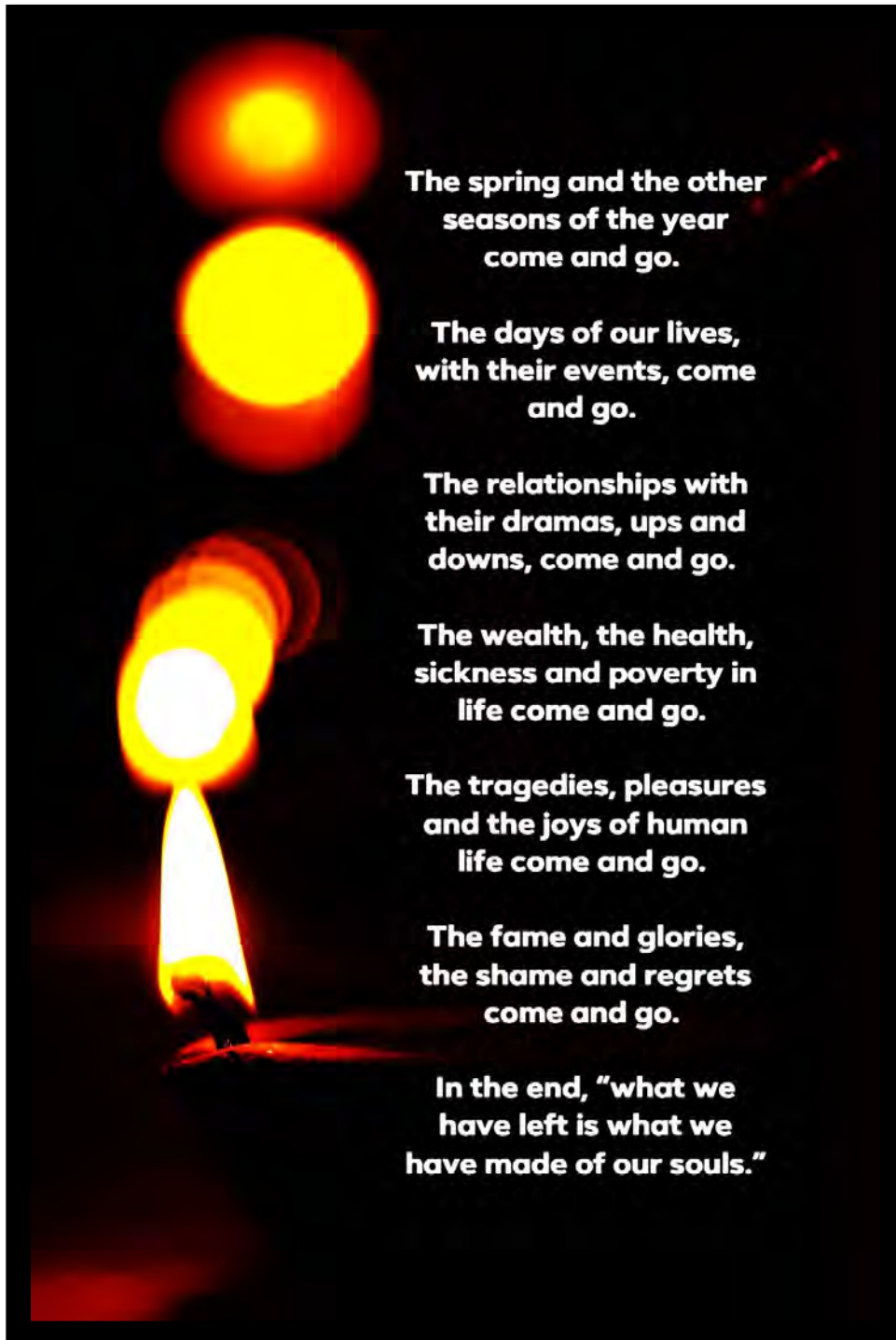
**The Baha'i Administration  
is a God-given gift, an  
irrigation system  
channelling the spirit  
worldwide, creating a new  
civilization with the power  
of love.**

**But without the sacrifice of  
ego and qualities of love,  
courtesy, caring and unity,  
it is just "a bucket of  
administration  
extinguishing the fire of  
love."**

*"The bedrock on which this Administrative Order is founded is God's immutable Purpose for mankind in this day." ~Shoghi Effendi*



# *What We Have Made of Our Souls*



*"The troubles of this world pass, and what we have left is what we have made of our souls" ~Shoghi Effendi*

# *When Are You Alive?*



**When the sweet song of a bird lifts your soul and makes it fly, you are alive.**

**When the loving kindness of one soul to another makes you cry, you are alive.**

**When the sound of beautiful music brings tears to your eyes, you are alive.**

**When the word "war" brings you sadness, and "peace" brings you joy, you are alive.**

**When you have immense love in your heart and are willing to give, you are alive.**

**When you see your enemies as potential friends and ready to love, you are alive.**

**When the troubles and happiness of others become yours, you are alive.**

**Your soul lives in these moments; otherwise, you are living but not alive.**

*"There is a fountain inside you. Don't walk around with an empty bucket."*

*~Rumi*

# *Mirror of Your Heart*



**Futilely spending  
your life searching  
for ways to know  
and get close to the  
Beloved.**

**The simplest way is  
to clean the mirror of  
your heart and  
reflect the light of  
the Beloved.**

*Holiness comes by holy deeds. Not starving flesh of daily needs.” ~Saadi*



# *The Consequences*

**You make impulsive  
decisions like an excited  
monkey jumping from  
branch to branch  
without any care or  
thought,**

**Forgetting your  
decisions have  
consequences; regrets  
and pains are the fruits  
of what you have  
wrought.**



*“The thoughtful soul to solitude retires.” ~Omar Khayyam*

# *Stopped the Foolish Wish*



IT WAS  
ALL A  
DREAM

**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*