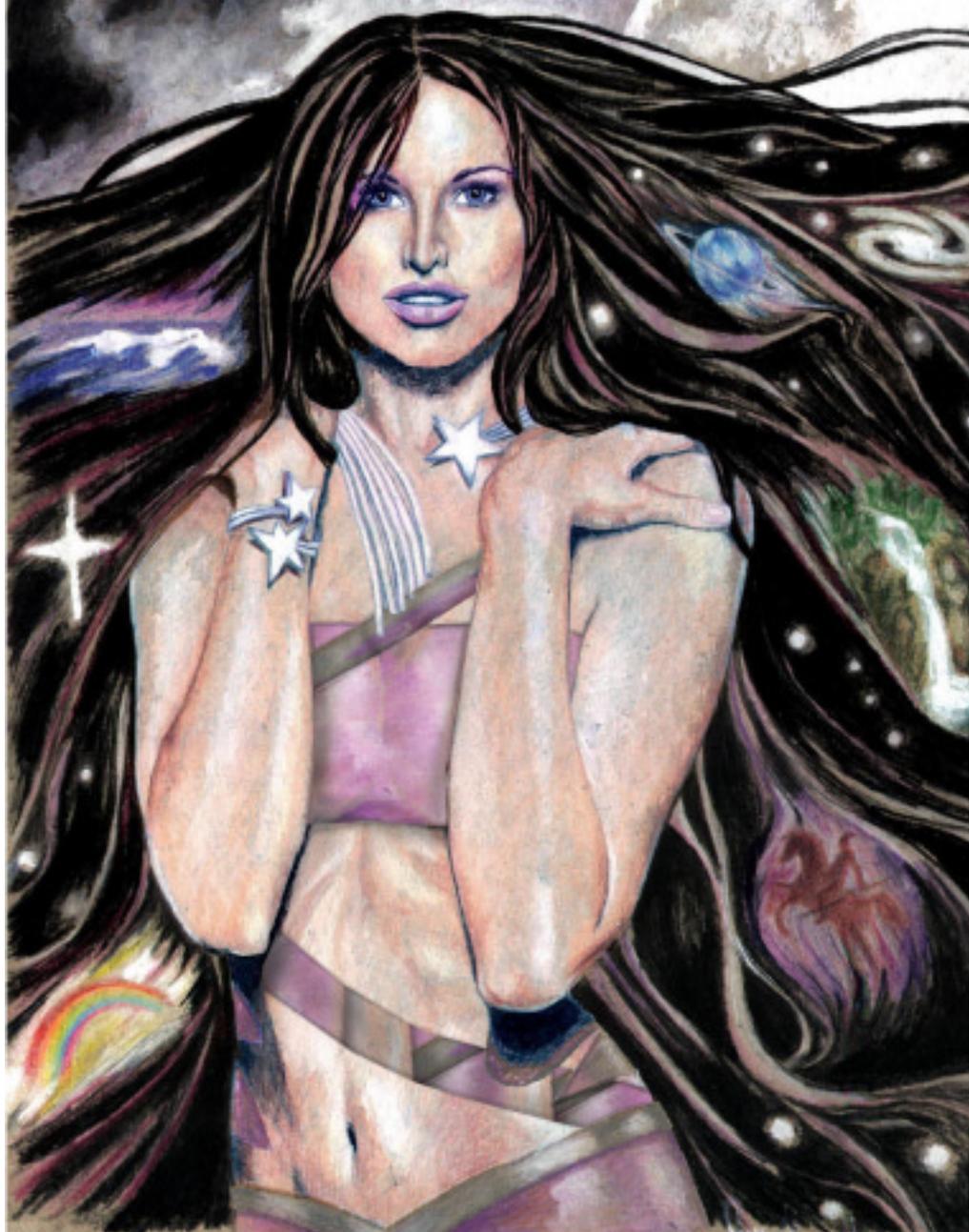


BLADE

ISSUE 20





It's not easy when you see others around you going through stuff, and there's nothing you can do about it. Maybe some adult is going through heavy trials; maybe your parents are arguing a lot; maybe a young person that you know is thinking of leaving the Family. What can you do? Then, as if that weren't enough, the Enemy comes and tries to whisper to you that the world is falling apart and you might as well give up.—Boy, he sure knows how to make you feel insecure, doesn't he?

Let Me tell you this: It's understandable that you feel a bit unsettled.—All humans have times when they feel lost, or alone, and they don't really know what to do about things. Some people just hide it inside and don't show it. And other people—you know what they do? They've tapped into the secret source that can help them rise above the problems around them.

I call it the *Two-poke Tactic*. It's like a great big two-pronged pitchfork that you can use to poke the Devil right back when he's trying to get you tripped up in looking around you. Do you

think that the Devil and his imps have a patent on all pitchforks? Remember, he's the great imitator, so you can be sure that whatever he has, I've got better, and that includes every spiritual weapon. You can picture the pitchforks that I give you as glowing, metallic-silver weapons, while you can picture the Devil's pitchforks as black and archaic looking. Okay, back to how to use the pitchfork I'm placing in your hands...

Prong number one: Keep your eyes on Me. Realize that I'm the Big Cheese up Here Who's got it all under control. I'm guiding your life, and I'm guiding your parents' lives, and I'm guiding the lives of all My children. Sure, it's up to them how much they yield to Me and how much they avail themselves of My power. But basically, I'm in charge. The world can't fall apart, because I'm holding it together. Stick with Me and you'll hold together too, and go on to a brighter day.

Can you guess what prong number two is? Fight for them! You thought there was nothing you could do? Think again! You have big power, kid. You have all the power in Heaven and Earth at your command.

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Cover by Jess-A



THE TWO-POKE
Tactic



You can pray for them. Harness the power of the thunder and the lightning and aim it right at the big goons that are closing in on your friends or loved ones, and blow them away with the power of My Spirit. I tell you, it's a pretty rewarding feeling to disable a crowd of devils, and then to walk out of your prayer room and see that loved one that you were upholding in prayer walk up with a big smile on her face. She doesn't have a clue what you were just doing, and maybe she doesn't even know why she feels so happy all of a sudden, but you and I know.

Even if you don't see immediate results, just keep wielding that spiritual pitchfork and don't give up. It's bound to work because I said so!


THE TWO-POKE
Tactic



You're like My moon. We're held together by an invisible gravitational pull—the pull of love. I

know at times you sense it and feel it, even though you don't always see it.

Just as the moon has her cycles, so you and each one of My loves have your cycles—like the times when the moon reveals half her beauty and light to earth, when it seems the sun is playing hide-and-seek with her; the times when the light of her sun seems to have escaped her; and the other times when you see her face glow as she reflects the sun's brilliance, and her countenance bears witness to his light!

In your life, you can always have faith that the times of shadow do their work, and are part of a great purpose. You can have faith that the sun of My Love is nevertheless always there. My Love is hidden from you only for

a time, that your rejoicing at gazing full in My face may in time be even more heightened.

So, My darling, turn the page and face this next chapter of your life with anticipation. Trust that the pull of My love is strong. Believe that the invisible cord of My presence will never falter for you, will never cease, and is as sure and unflinching as the gravitational pull on the moon. My love will always reflect fully from your face again, as you patiently wait out the shadows and look expectantly for it.

Cling to the knowledge of My great love for you, My faith in you, and My great need for you. Your value is of great measure! Look not in the mirror of man at your own weaknesses, seeming lacks, and imperfections, but rather look fully into the looking glass of My promises and My Words of love to you. For therein you will find hope and trust, and the glorious glisten and sparkle of tomorrow.



PHASES OF THE
Moon



PHASES OF THE
Moon

EVYE

Let Me set the scene, because I'm going to tell you some thing special about Heaven's skies. We're in a boat—sort of like a large, wooden gondola. You and I are sitting up front, and there are three musicians in the back of the boat, play-

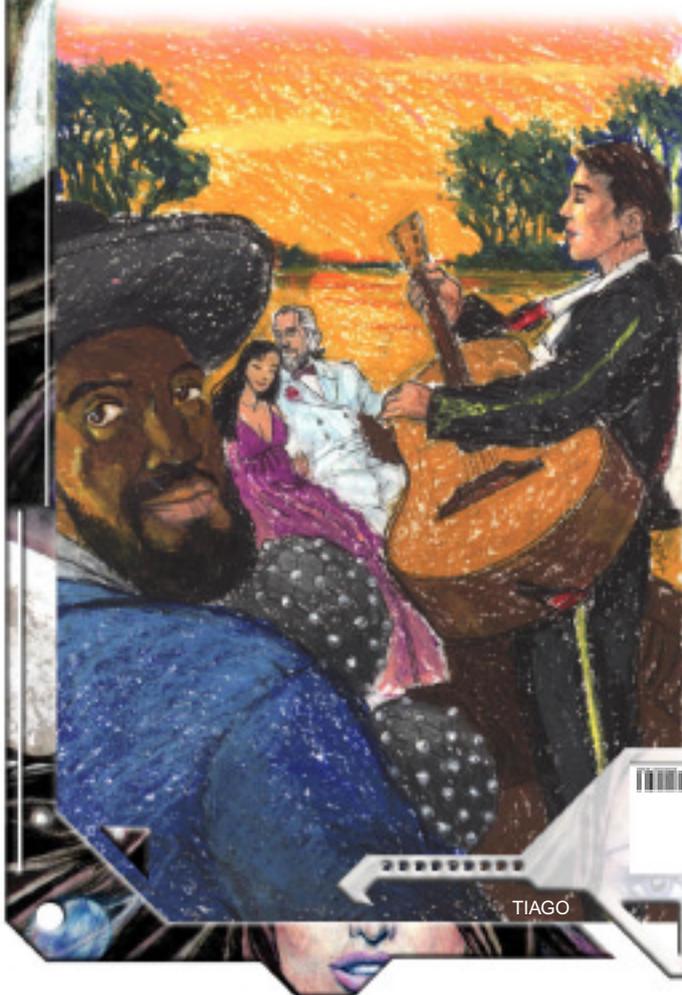
ing Spanish music on guitars. There's no oarsman, because I, Myself, am steering the boat with My mind.

We're gliding down a river, which looks like molten gold. There's not a ripple in it. This is no narrow river.—The river banks are far away on either side, and if I hadn't actually told you it was a river, you

would think it was a giant lake. Stately trees of unearthly size grace the sides of the river, and in the distance you can see buildings. Though enormous in size, they seem to hug the ground more. They're golden in color, too.—Everything has a golden look today, and it matches the tranquil, almost lazy atmosphere we are basking in as we enjoy our ride.

Our seats are like armchairs, side by side, deep and soft and long enough so that we can stretch our legs out. The chairs are tilted back just right so that we can view the liquid panorama before us, and also see the sky without craning our necks.

Do you picture the sky of the Heavenly City as cluttered by mansion tiers and filled with out-of-this



TIAGO

HEAVEN'S
Skies

world flying vehicles, buzzing constantly above you? Well, look again. There *are* tiers in the Heavenly City, but they're so high, you can't even see the first one from here. The sky is golden and looks like it has no end. Clouds glide about in graceful formations.—If you stare at them for long enough you start to believe they're living, because although they move slowly, they actually make intelligent patterns in the sky. They're colored by the same golden haze, but they also have distinct colors. Right now they're washed with maroons and browns and yellows, to match this perfect day. Of course, you've probably already guessed that Heaven's greenery doesn't need rain to stay alive, and you're right. The clouds are merely for decoration.

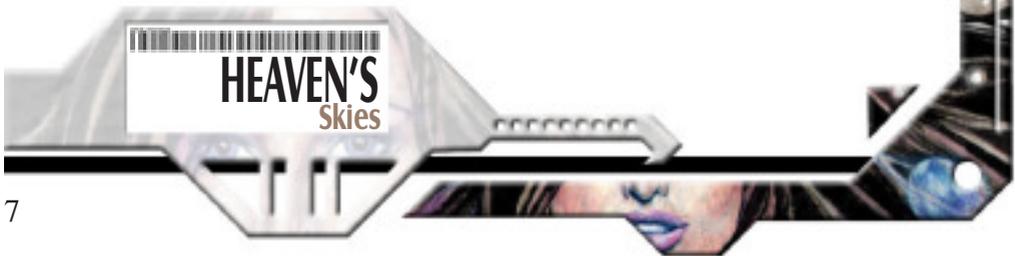
As for the flying vehicles—they're there alright. There are thousands of them, of all shapes and sizes, carrying Heaven's citizens through the air on business and pleasure trips. But these vehicles all have what you can think of as a "chameleon skin" feature. It means that the outer skin of each vehicle instantly changes color to match the sky and clouds that are around it, whatever those colors may be. The skin changes color just as fast as it moves through the air, so that there's not even a ripple of a change to indicate its movement through the sky.

This is one way that all of Heaven harmonizes together, for there is nothing in Heaven that detracts from the beauty of Heaven. There is nothing that pollutes

or clutters. Within the vehicles—in case you're wondering—they have special panels with which they can see all the other vehicles in the sky, so they don't crash into each other.

There are some parts of the City where vehicles don't have to have the chameleon skin feature activated—you could almost call them the commerce centers. But when the vehicles are flying over My River of Life, or through areas of Heaven devoted to relaxation and pleasure, the feature is automatically turned on. Neat, huh?

So lie back in your seat, and take in the music, the magical river, and the amazing sky above. In Heaven, life's a wonderful dream that will never end.





Step right up and grab ahold of Blinky. Who's Blinky? Blinky is a robot with a personality all her own. She's named Blinky because of the many blinking lights that decorate her surface. She's got two handles that you can grab on to, as well as a headset for you to wear, through which she can speak to you.

What's she for? you're thinking, as she hovers in the air in front of you. Step right through this portal, and let's find out.

"Oh, water! I love water!" Blinky says, as her lights come to life and begin blinking in a variety of patterns and colors. You've just stepped into Water World.—It's a pavilion in Heaven devoted to My world under water.

Whrrrr! The sound of a motor suddenly starts humming, and you find that Blinky has pulled you off your feet and is beginning to whisk you through this underwater realm.

"I just have to show you these coral reefs!" you can hear Blinky say through your headphones. Her voice is as bubbly as the stream of bubbles that's shooting out from behind her motor. "Would you like that?" she asks.

"Uh, sure," you reply, suddenly discovering that you can both breathe and talk underwater—a sensation that feels a little weird at first, but you'll get used to it soon enough.

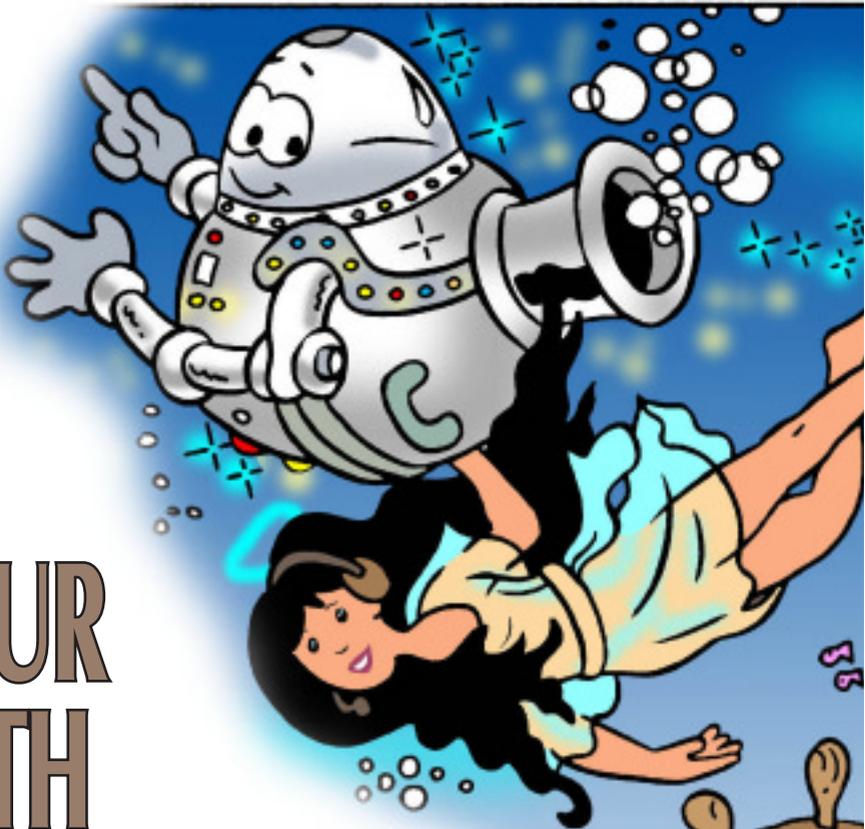
Blinky picks up your reply and flashes another colorful set of lights to indicate that she's heard you. She turns to the left, and heads down. All you can do is hold on and wait to see what she's going to show you.

"Certain marine organisms grow in colonies and leave behind a rock-like deposit. Coral deposits often accumulate to form reefs or islands in warm seas." Blinky is programmed with libraries of knowledge about the most intricate details of the oceans, from the migrating habits of the largest whales to the chemical makeup of plankton. Any question you have about life under water, you can ask Blinky.

And not only does she answer questions, she also likes to talk just for the fun of it, and can engage you in conversations on a wide variety of topics. But mostly, of course, she loves to talk about water—fresh water, salt water, springs, rivers, lakes, oceans, ponds—and anything you want to know about them.

Are you fascinated by the secrets that lie beneath the seemingly endless waters and in the deepest abysses of the ocean? Have you wondered about underwater legends and mysteries, about mermaids, monsters, lost ships and their treasures, lost continents and their civilizations? Well, Blinky knows all about them—which legends are true, and which are false, and I'm sure she'll be happy to tell you. All you'll have to do is ask—and then hold tight!

TOUR WITH BLINKY



It is an age-old question, and one which My children often ask Me as they seek to serve

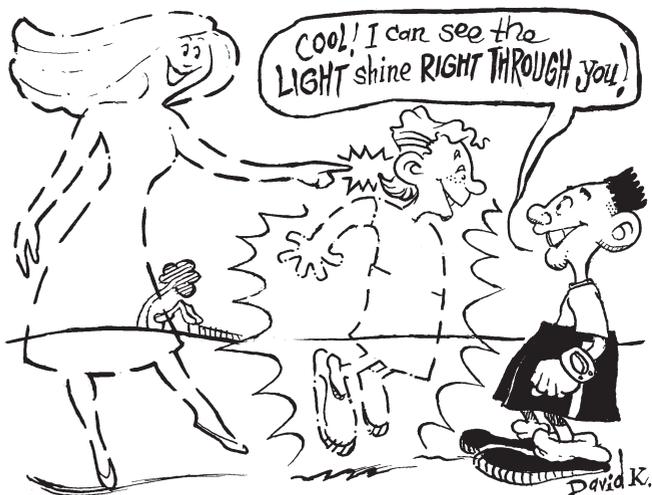
Me and glorify Me on Earth: "How can I decrease that You might increase, Lord?"

I see the sincere prayer of your heart, My son, and in gratitude for your desire for humility, I am giving you a gift.—It's the kind of gift I'm willing to give any of My children who desire a change of heart. She is a beautiful spirit helper—not beautiful with her own beauty, but beautiful because of the radiance of My Spirit that she possesses. See, this spirit helper is transparent. When you look at her, other than seeing her smile and her bright eyes, you can't really see anything else of her, but a faint outline of her form. She's transparent, and when you look at her, you only see a reflection of My beauty and My light.

She will be your companion in these days as

you struggle to grow in the weapon of humility. She will gently stand in front of you when you are tempted to glorify yourself—your own works or your strong body—and in standing before you, she will render you transparent also, so that people will only see Me shining through you.

There's something else that comes with this spirit helper of humility, and that is a heavenly scent. When you take on her transparency, you also receive a special unearthly smell that will attract others to you. That's right.—It's so contrary to the ideas of man. It's natural to think you have to show off your own bod, or parade your own intelligence or wit before others to attract them. But the thing about this heavenly scent I give you is that it attracts people to you more than your own self-image ever could. Of course, people can't smell it with their physical noses, but it rests upon you and around you in the spirit, and people are drawn to it, because it comes from Me! It is a smell straight from Heaven. It's a blessing of My Spirit on you, for your desire and your efforts to glorify Me in all that you do and say.



A GIFT OF
Transparency

I want you to be a humble and meek vessel, to put aside your pride and your own will, to just follow Me as I lead you. I am teaching you patience in your life, and giving you the opportunity to overcome your battle of being impatient, for that is something that will be vital when you move to the mission field. You need to be willing to admit you're wrong sometimes and be able to take the blame.

Also fight for more fire and conviction in your soul—the undeniable power that tells you that you won't stop for anything if it's God's will. You'll keep going no matter what. That is what I require of you.

I want you to make the commitment of a 100-percent, sold-out, on-fire Christian for Me. You can't be wishy-washy in your convictions. You need to keep a clear-cut line and then don't cross it. Because if you don't have that line you let a lot of little things seep in. Then, sure enough later down the line, the big things you said you'd never do—you end up doing them.

So take a stand and do not waver in your convictions for Me. If you keep coming to Me I will keep you strong in faith.



MISSIONARY STANDARD

HOT TIPS FOR
My Missionary

I want to show you something special. Take a look at this keychain. There are no keys at present on this particular one; it's just a chain with a ring to put the keys on. This is how I want your link with Me to be. I want you to be free of your own type of keys, so that you are open to the keys I give you to put on it.

You're linked to Me, chained to Me by our love, and you're an empty ring until I fill you up. That's the way I want to keep you—filled up with Me alone. Sometimes you feel you are dangling around, and like you're not attached to anything real solid, but that makes you hold on tightly to your chain. Please realize that the chain of our love is firmly hooked on to Me and I won't let it get loose or detached, or anything like that.

Just hold on and be open to the keys I want to give you—the keys to true happiness, the keys to overcoming, the keys to joy in this life. As you look to Me, I'll hook them on and you'll be able to open many a door that you come across—the challenges you face, the trials that test you.

Sometimes you come across a door, and it looks pretty solid, and like it's firmly in your way. It seems there would be no way around it or through it or over it. It's just there to stay. But when you look to Me and I hand you a key, you see that you can merely unlock the door, and poof, it's outta your way, and you can keep on going for Me.



My lovely one,
I love it
when you
take a few
moments to
worship Me.

When you stop to focus on Me, our minds merge, and we are one for a few timeless moments. Time seems to stand still as we exchange thoughts of love for one another.

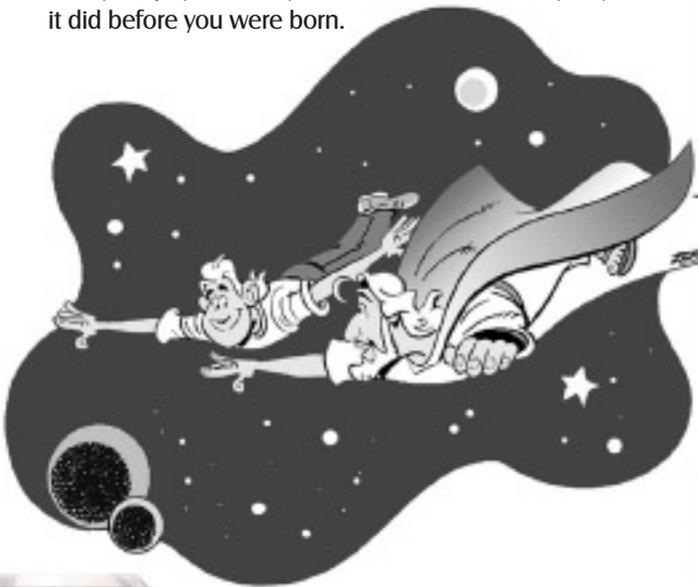
There is no one else in the whole world at that moment.—It's just you and Me and eternity. We're wrapped in a magical bubble of the music you're playing in honor of Me. Those magical, musical notes open your spirit up to Me, and as you close your eyes I know you can see Me. I'm smiling as I read your thoughts.

Your mind is soaring as you exit the physical plane of existence and enter that part of your consciousness that lives and breathes in the other realm—My spiritual realm. It's like you're waking up from

the dream that your earthly existence is, into the reality of your life. You're not limited by space or time or gravity. You're not stuck inside your physical body.—Your spirit can take on any form and soar, spin, rise, and dip at incredible speeds.

All the while I'm watching with eternal joy. I love to see you remember who you are—My creation, designed to fly without restraints. It's like the joy I had when I freed those doves from their cages in the temple. As they soared up into the air, exulting at the power of their wings once again, it reminded Me of the wonderful miracle My Father was going to do with the souls of men. Through the miracle of My sacrifice, He was going to teach them how to soar in spirit again, free from the cage of the condemnation of sin.

Soar with Me every day.—Soon it won't be such a foreign experience, as the memories return of the ease with which you worshipped Me, and the delight you experienced when you soared as My free creation, before your Earth-life. You'll remember more and more, until soaring in the spirit—wherever your physical body is—will come as naturally to you as it did before you were born.



WAKING UP
from the Dream

Even if you can't see wild things of the Spirit, even if you can't hear the Spirit's music and see

My face in person, those moments that you do spend in My arms—reading My Words, listening to Me—are very real, and are like trips into the Heavens. Though you can't see everything that you wish you could right now, believe Me that I have some special things up ahead for you, some special times with Me and fun spiritual experiences. Wait and see! Trust in Me and love Me with all your heart, mind, and soul, and I will complete these desires of your heart.

As you spend time daily in My presence, I'll refresh your spirit, strengthen your heart, and give you joy and courage to keep running the race for Me. All your Heavenly helpers are around you and with you, and keep doing all that they can to encourage you in the race.

Many angels surround



you—more than you realize! If you could see them, you'd know that Heaven is in your own Home. You don't have to go anywhere to know that My Heaven surrounds you, and you live and work right alongside a great Heavenly host.

REAL MOMENTS
with Me



You're a little chess piece, and I will move you here or there as I see fit. But you, as the chess piece, should not try to move yourself, for in that lies the danger of removing yourself from the center of My will. Instead you must simply trust that I have placed you where you are now and I will move you as I please, as I will. In this is perfect happiness and peace—being in the center of My will.

There will be changes ahead—changes for you, changes for all—but I will strengthen you through them if you will flow with the moves of My Spirit. If you yield to My desires, if you go when I say to go and stay when I say to stay and change when I say to change, then you have nothing to fear and everything to look forward to. The prospects of the future are bright and wonderful for those who yield and submit to Me and My plan. So as long as you are moldable clay in My hands, you have nothing to fear.

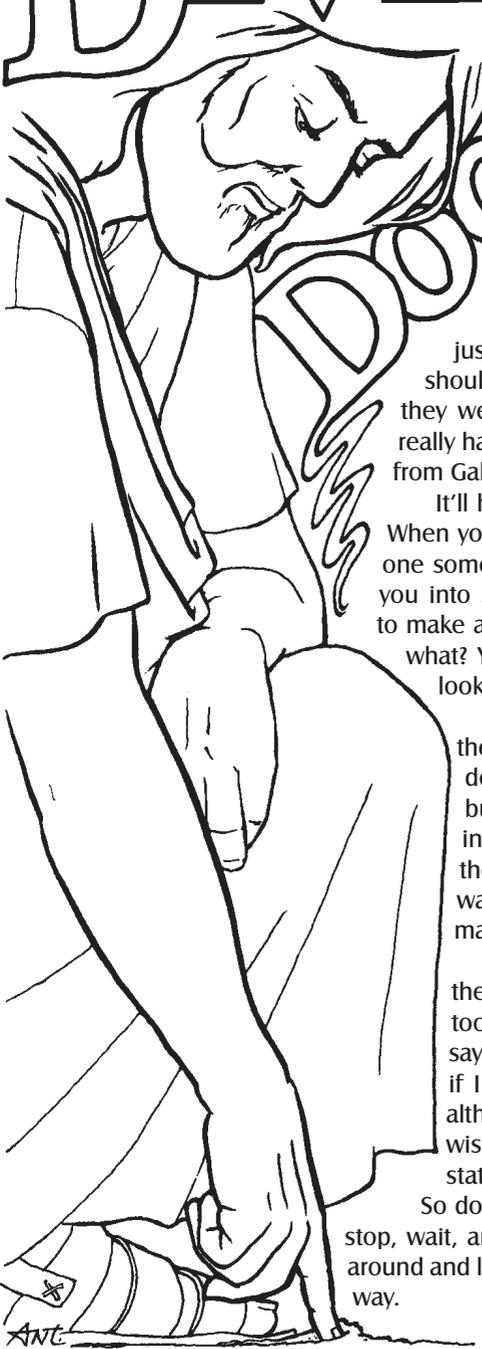
Changes are coming upon the whole world. Changes are happening in the Family at large. So it should not surprise you that changes are also happening in your life. It's nothing to worry about or fear, but something that you should be thankful for.

Changes help improve things. Changes are good for you. Changes keep you fearing Me and moving with My Spirit. Changes keep you from letting your roots grow too deep. Changes—when yielded to—bring about greater happiness and usefulness to Me.

Thank you for being one of My adaptable, yielded chess pieces.

FLOW WITH
the Changes

DIVINE DOODLING



“But Jesus stooped down, and with His finger wrote on the ground, as though He heard them not” (Jn.8:6).

Sometimes it’s just not worth it, you know? Sometimes it’s just better to ignore it. I did.—I knew when it was pointless to argue, to quarrel, and to get upset, so I just turned My back and wrote on the ground. You should have seen how angry that made them. Here they were, the rulers of the synagogue, thinking they really had Me this time. But there I was, “just a carpenter from Galilee,” ignoring the proud Pharisees.

It’ll happen to you too sometime if it hasn’t already. When you’re on outreach, or just out and around, someone sometime will undoubtedly hassle you, trying to get you into something, trying to get you upset, to get you to make a move either in actions or words, but you know what? You don’t have to. Just look past him or her, or look up, smile, and wait.

Wait for what? Wait for the answer. Oh yes, there was a reason I was down there. I wasn’t *just* doodling. Well, I was putting them in their place, but at the same time I was waiting. I was shooting up a prayer for help, for wisdom, and for just the right words. And then the words came, and that was when I stood up and said what I said, and it made history.

That’s all you have to do. Just ignore, wait, and then answer when I show you what to say, and you too can make history. Of Myself I had nothing to say. I didn’t know what the proper answer was, and if I had been too hasty, what I would have said—although perhaps it would have been somewhat wise—would not have had the impact to make My statement last throughout the ages, the way it has.

So don’t let people rush you or push you around. Just stop, wait, and then when I give you the words to say, turn around and let ‘em have it—in My Spirit, in My time, and in My way.