

The following story is from the book

The Central Figures

The Báb

Volume One



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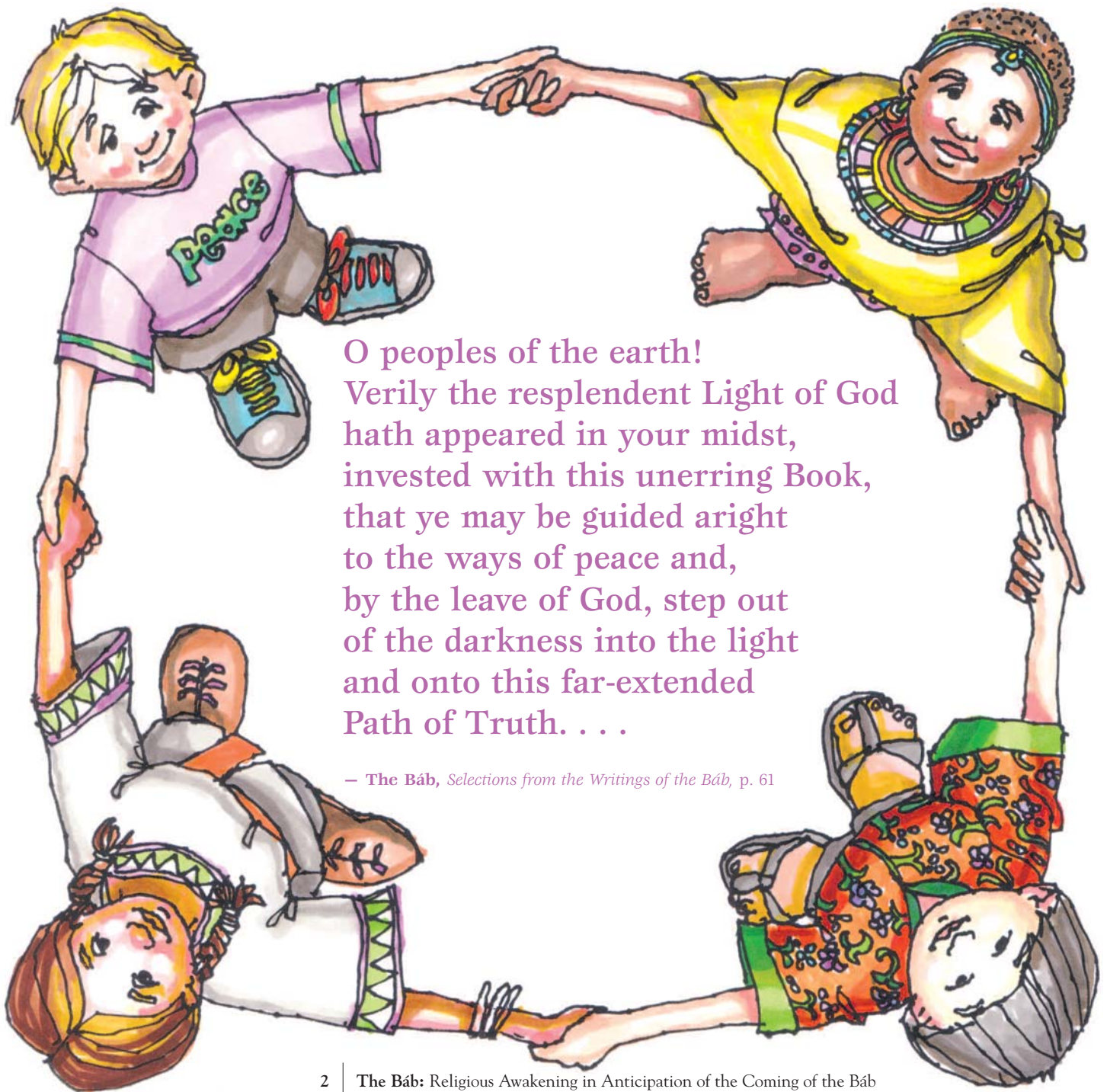
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O peoples of the earth!
Verily the resplendent Light of God
hath appeared in your midst,
invested with this unerring Book,
that ye may be guided aright
to the ways of peace and,
by the leave of God, step out
of the darkness into the light
and onto this far-extended
Path of Truth. . . .

— The Báb, *Selections from the Writings of the Báb*, p. 61

The Luckiest Girl in the World

*Written by Rick Johnson
Illustrated by Keith Kresge*

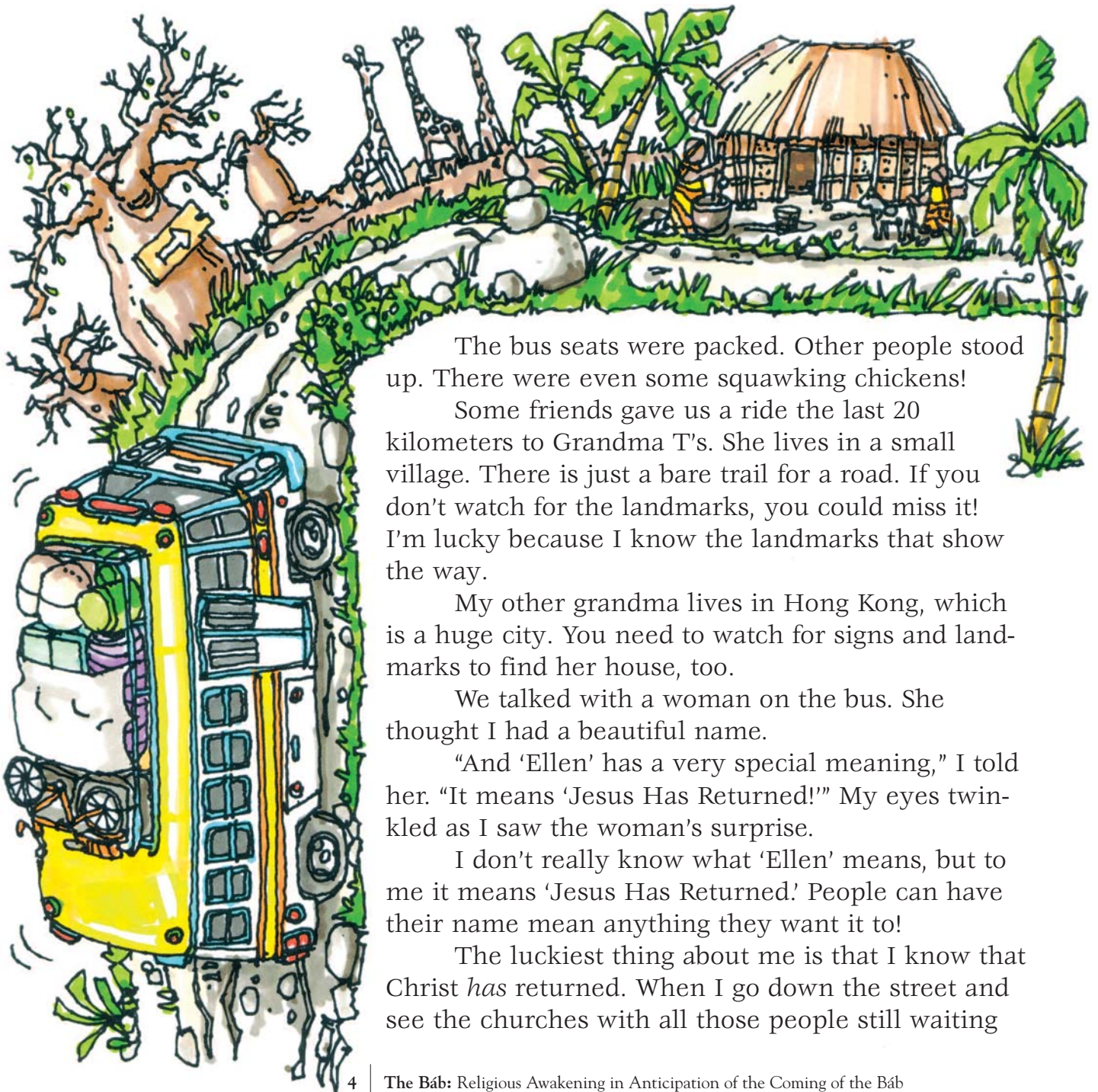


I'm the luckiest girl in the world! First, I'm lucky because I have grandmas on two different continents. Grandma T lives in Tanzania and Grandma C lives in China.

I have Asian family and African family. See how lucky I am?

I'm 16 and love visiting my grandmas. Right now I'm visiting Grandma T.

Papa and I took a bus to the town near Grandma T's village. The bus was cool! It was brightly colored and had many flashing lights. The radio played really loud music. The bus went fast, zooming and lurching like a roller coaster. It was exciting!



The bus seats were packed. Other people stood up. There were even some squawking chickens!

Some friends gave us a ride the last 20 kilometers to Grandma T's. She lives in a small village. There is just a bare trail for a road. If you don't watch for the landmarks, you could miss it! I'm lucky because I know the landmarks that show the way.

My other grandma lives in Hong Kong, which is a huge city. You need to watch for signs and landmarks to find her house, too.

We talked with a woman on the bus. She thought I had a beautiful name.

"And 'Ellen' has a very special meaning," I told her. "It means 'Jesus Has Returned!'" My eyes twinkled as I saw the woman's surprise.

I don't really know what 'Ellen' means, but to me it means 'Jesus Has Returned.' People can have their name mean anything they want it to!

The luckiest thing about me is that I know that Christ *has* returned. When I go down the street and see the churches with all those people still waiting

for Jesus to show up, I know I'm lucky. What is it like to wait hundreds of years for something and not know you missed it?

But I could have missed it, too. Just like I could get lost on the way to visit my grandma's if I missed the landmarks and signs.

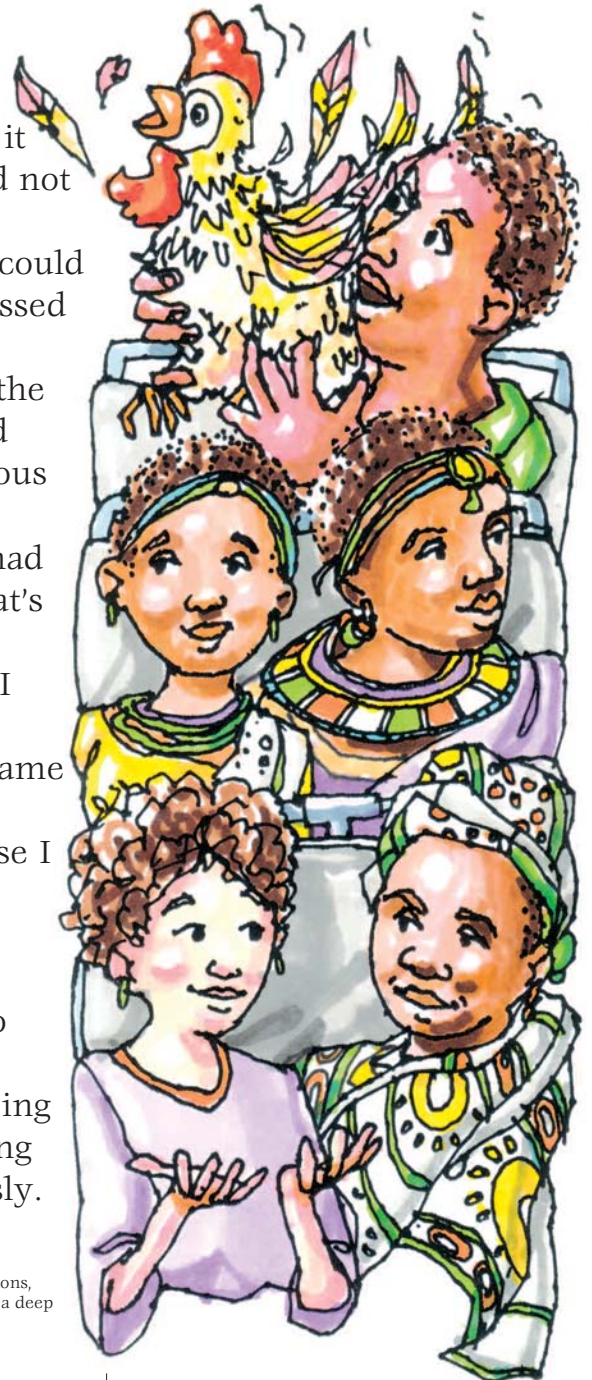
I'm named after Ellen McBride Moore. In the mid-1800s, she saw spiritual signs that suggested Jesus would return soon, and she was very curious about that. She searched for the meaning of the spiritual signs and discovered that Jesus really had returned! My parents heard Ellen's story and that's how I got my name.

When I found out who I was named after, I wanted to learn everything about her.

When I told the lady on the bus that my name meant, "Jesus Has Returned," she said, "Are you sure?" That's the question I love the best, because I know the landmarks that point to Jesus having returned. People often like to hear what I say.¹

In the mid-1800s when Ellen Moore lived, many people saw signs that God was going to do something, like maybe send Jesus back. A great comet made some people think that God was going to destroy the world. Many people were expecting something. Ellen Moore took these signs seriously. She wanted to find out what God was up to.

¹ Tanzania has people of many religions, roughly 1/3 Christian, 1/3 Muslim, and 1/3 other religions, mostly religions that appeared among the native people. As in much of Africa, Tanzanians have a deep interest in spiritual questions.





In America, the Millerites and Mormons had thousands of Christians looking for the Day of God. Was Christ coming soon, like so many expected? What if He had already returned, and she had missed it? No one could answer Ellen's questions. People did not understand her interest, except for her daughter, Lua.²

Everyone told Ellen to forget her questions. Her minister and husband begged her to stop asking. But no one could stop her search. She was determined to see what the spiritual signs meant.

Ellen's husband said she "thought that God was everybody's business." She was not going to leave such important questions only to the men. I'm so lucky to be named for such a woman. She really inspires me.

There were more signs than even Ellen Moore saw. The 19th century was amazing! People all over the *world* were spiritually searching. In Africa, a holy man taught that the Mihdí, the Promised One of Islám, would soon appear. Elsewhere in Africa, a Xhosa holy man taught that the Creator would soon remake the world. Some of the Maori in New Zealand also believed that a perfect new world would soon appear. Fiji Islanders also thought the old world would become young and beautiful again.³

All across the world, people were searching

² Lua Getsinger was one of the great Bahá'í teachers of the early days of the Bahá'í Faith in the West.

³ An African holy man, Shehu Usuman, founded a movement with a strong political and military aspect. He gathered a huge army and waged war to try to bring spiritual rebirth by force. Another African holy man of the Xhosa people was known as Nxele or Makanna. Among the Maori, a leader known as Te Ua Haumene founded the Paimarire religion. A Fiji holy man, known as Ndugomoi or Navosavakandua, founded the Tuka movement.

and expecting God to do something marvelous. And He did. He sent the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh. That is what Ellen Moore was looking for, and she found it. Her daughter Lua taught her the Bahá'í Faith. She was overjoyed to know that Jesus had returned.

And that's why I'm so lucky.

Oh, and the lady on the bus? She's lucky, too. Today she heard about the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh. ★

