



# Crisis and Victory

*At an individual level*

**H**ave mercy on me, God, have mercy,  
for in you I have placed my trust. Even in  
the shadow of your wings will I find my  
refuge until this calamity passes.—*Psalm 57:1*

**L**eave all your affairs in His Hands,  
place your trust in Him, and rely upon  
Him. He will assuredly not forsake you.

—*Bahá'u'lláh*



**T**he Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word ‘crisis’. One brush stroke stands for danger; the other for opportunity. In a crisis, be aware of the danger—but recognize the opportunity.—*John F. Kennedy*

**D**o not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.—*Nelson Mandela*

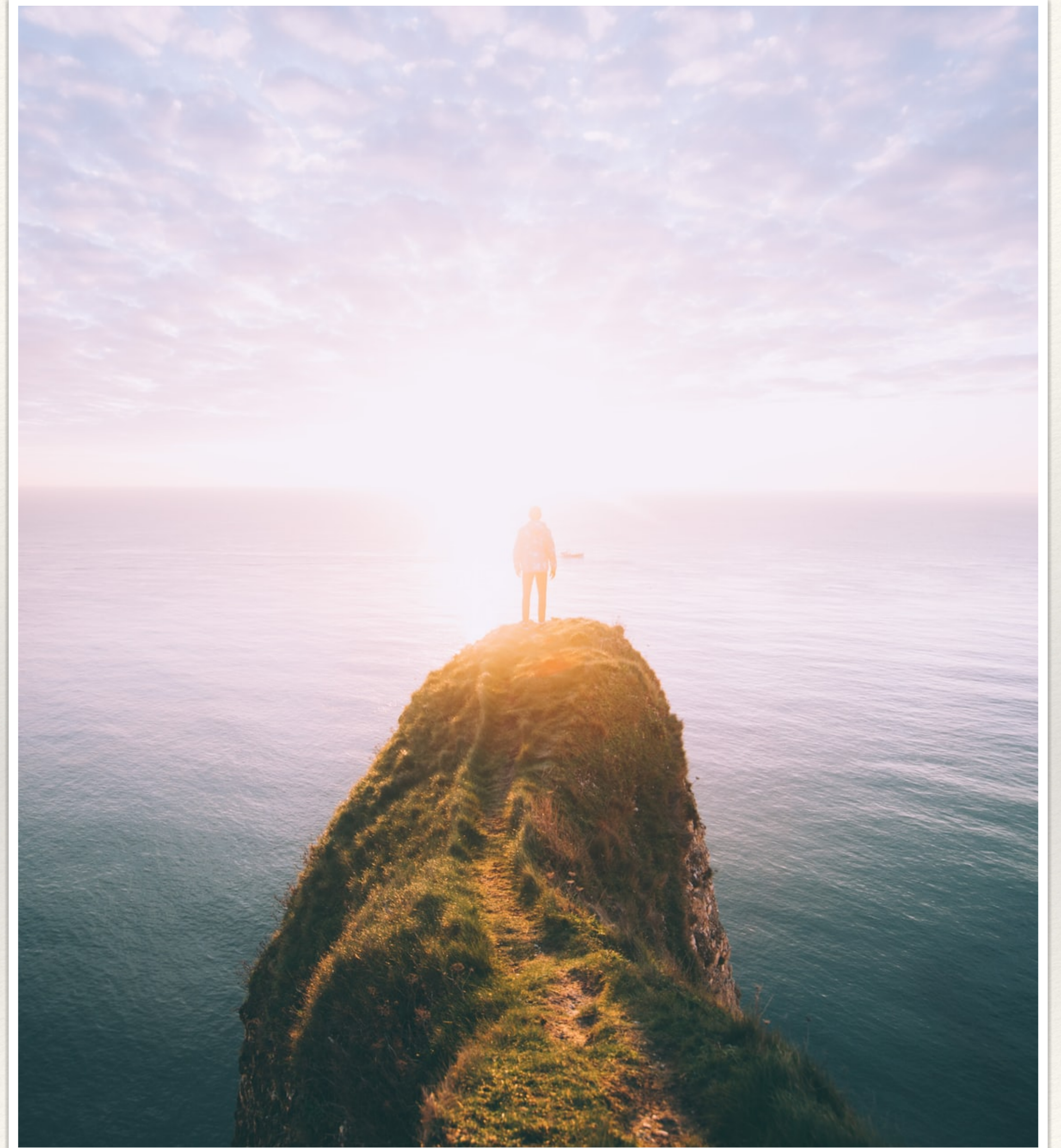
**T**here is a saying in Tibetan, ‘Tragedy should be utilized as a source of strength.’—*Dalai Lama*

**A**lthough the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming of it.—*Helen Keller*

**T**he first and greatest victory is to  
conquer yourself.—*Plato*

**A**rise, O people, and, by the power  
of God's might, resolve to gain the  
victory over your own selves...—*Bahá'u'lláh*

**M**en who suffer not, attain no  
perfection.—*'Abdu'l-Bahá*



*At the level of society*

**I**ndeed, the chief reason for the evils now rampant in society is a lack of spirituality. The materialistic civilization of our age has so much absorbed the energy and interest of mankind, that people in general no longer feel the necessity of raising themselves above the forces and conditions of their daily material existence... The universal crisis affecting mankind is, therefore, essentially spiritual in its causes.—*The Universal House of Justice*

**A**ll the Prophets have come to promote divine bestowals, to found the spiritual civilization and teach the principles of morality. Therefore, we must strive with all our powers so that spiritual influences may gain the victory.

—*‘Abdu’l-Bahá*

**I**n a day such as this, when the tempests of trials and tribulations have encompassed the world, and fear and trembling have agitated the planet, ye must rise above the horizon of firmness and steadfastness with illumined faces and radiant brows in such wise that, God willing, the gloom of fear and consternation may be entirely obliterated, and the light of assurance may dawn above the manifest horizon and shine resplendently.—*Abdu'l-Bahá*

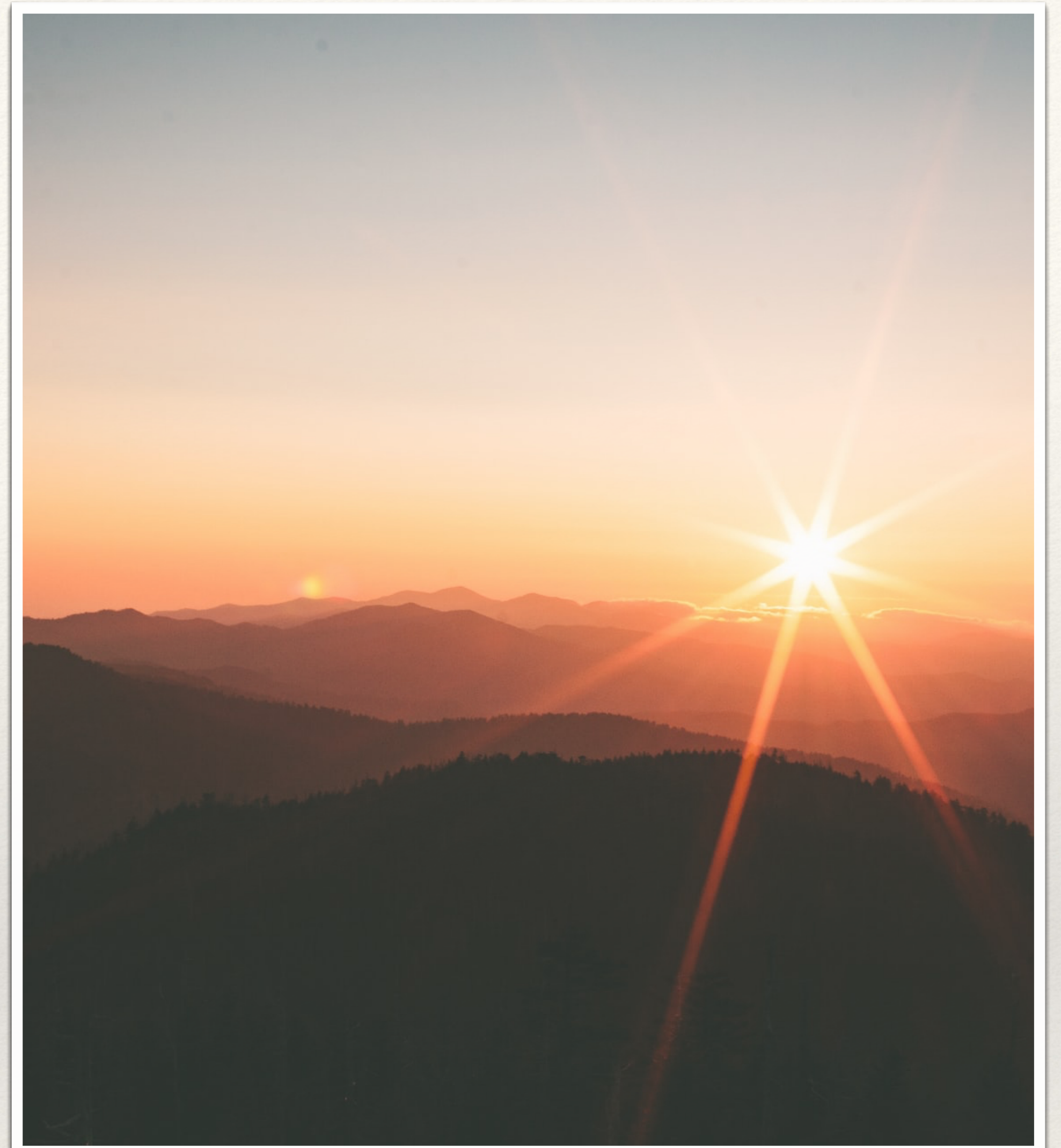
**T**he world stands more and more in need of the hope and the strength of spirit that faith imparts.—*The Universal House of Justice*

**H**owever difficult matters are at present, and however close to the limits of their endurance some sections of societies are brought, humanity will ultimately pass through this ordeal, and it will emerge on the other side with greater insight and with a deeper appreciation of its inherent oneness and interdependence.—*The Universal House of Justice*

**B**ut on the whole the crisis is serving a great purpose. It is broadening the outlook of man, teaching him to think internationally, forcing him to take into consideration the welfare of his neighbours if he wishes to improve his own condition.—*Shoghi Effendi*

**S**ometimes at the height of the crisis itself, more often when the crisis was past, the significance of these trials has manifested itself to men's eyes, and the necessity of such experiences has been demonstrated.—*Shoghi Effendi*

**L**et it ever be borne in mind that we earn our victories through test and trial; we turn crisis to the advantage of progress by seizing the opportunity it provides to demonstrate the viability and winning power of our principles. In the onward surge of the Cause of God, crisis and victory have always alternated and have ever proven to be the staple of progress.—*The Universal House of Justice*



**I** have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.—*John 16:33*



**T**hat's why we are not discouraged. No, even if outwardly we are wearing out, inwardly we are being renewed each and every day. This light, temporary nature of our suffering is producing for us an everlasting weight of glory, far beyond any comparison, because we do not look for things that can be seen but for things that cannot be seen. For things that can be seen are temporary, but things that cannot be seen are eternal.—*2 Corinthians 4:16-18*

**H**e will breathe into your hearts the spirit of life, cause you to enter the Ark of salvation, and reveal unto you His clear tokens and signs. Verily is this abounding grace. Verily is this the victory that none can deny.—*Abdu'l-Bahá*

## *Footprints in the Sand*

One night I dreamed a dream.  
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.  
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.  
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in  
the sand,  
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.  
After the last scene of my life flashed before me,  
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.  
I noticed that at many times along the path of my  
life,  
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,  
there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord  
about it.

“Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,  
You’d walk with me all the way.

But I noticed that during the saddest and most  
troublesome times of my life,  
there was only one set of footprints.

I don’t understand why, when I needed You the  
most, You would leave me.”

He whispered, “My precious child, I love you and  
will never leave you

Never, ever, during your trials and testings.

When you saw only one set of footprints,

It was then that I carried you.” —*Unknown*

**G**LORY be unto Thee, O Lord, Thou Who hast brought into being all created things, through the power of Thy behest.

O Lord! Assist those who have renounced all else but Thee, and grant them a mighty victory. Send down upon them, O Lord, the concourse of the angels in heaven and earth and all that is between, to aid Thy servants, to succor and strengthen them, to enable them to achieve success, to sustain them, to invest them with glory, to confer upon them honor and exaltation, to enrich them and to make them triumphant with a wondrous triumph.

—*The Báb*

