

... the souls who are veiled from God, although they exist in this world and in the world after death, are, in comparison with the holy existence of the children of the Kingdom of God, nonexistent and separated from God.

--'Abdu'l-Bahá, *Some Answered Questions*, p. 243

The souls of the infidels, however, shall - and to this I bear witness - when breathing their last be made aware of the good things that have escaped them, and shall bemoan their plight, and shall humble themselves before God. They shall continue doing so after the separation of their souls from their bodies.

... They that are the followers of the one true God shall, the moment they depart out of this life, experience such joy and gladness as would be impossible to describe, while they that live in error shall be seized with such fear and trembling, and shall be filled with such consternation, as nothing can exceed. Well is it with him that hath quaffed the choice and incorruptible wine of faith through the gracious favor and the manifold bounties of Him Who is the Lord of all Faiths  
....

*Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 170-71

### **Birth into Life**

A soul was born in the material womb  
Slowly, imperceptibly  
Preparing limbs for the earth  
Unconscious of any effort  
As always with purposes  
Of a lesser import

A soul was born in the spiritual womb  
Quickly, conscientiously  
Grabbing objects from the earth  
Blind to love as human essence  
As always with possessions  
Of visible substance

A body was born in the consuming life  
Rashly, impertinently  
Killing the soul on the earth  
Confused with its avid pretense  
As always with meager aims  
Of stubborn ignorance

A soul was born in the most Glorious Life  
Painfully, remorsefully  
Beholding the Light of Truth  
Aware of soul's longing to grow  
As always with late knowledge  
Of eternal sorrow

Lorraine Hétu Manifold  
Brussels, Apr 93