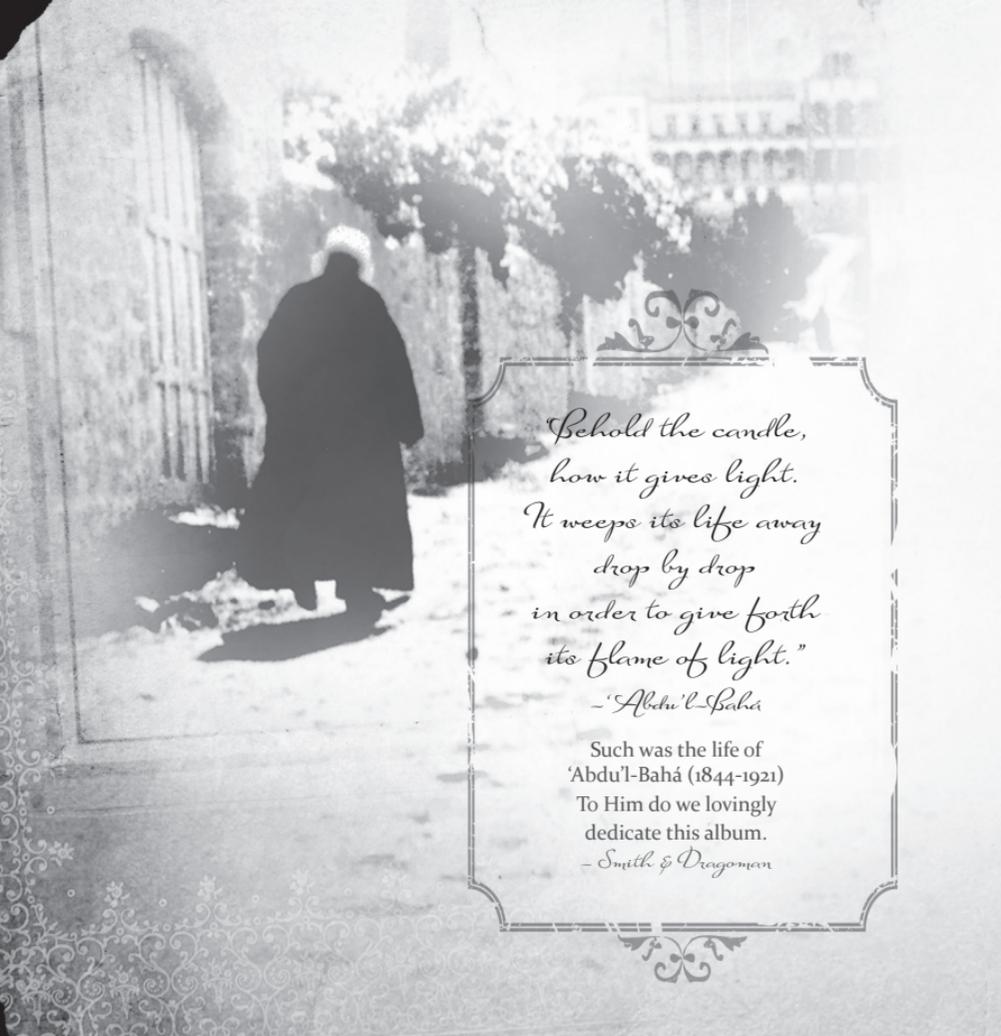




Smith & Dragonman

*The
Mystery*





*Behold the candle,
how it gives light.
It weeps its life away
drop by drop
in order to give forth
its flame of light."*

- 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Such was the life of
'Abdu'l-Bahá (1844-1921)
To Him do we lovingly
dedicate this album.

- Smith & Dragoman

Asher Lenz – Musical arrangements and additional composition on all songs except Portrait of Grace

Brett Smith, Michael Dragoman and Emily Dragoman – All vocals

Heather Poole Dragoman and Jessica Poole – Back-up vocals on *Gift of the Ether*

Aaron Ferrera – Drums and percussion on *The Mystery, On Holy Ground and Gift of the Ether*

Tony McManus – Guitar on *Gift of the Ether, On Holy Ground and Note in a Bottle*

Ben Grossman – *Hurdy Gurdy on Tears of a Child and Land & Sea. Percussion on The Covenant and Gift of the Ether*

Chris Church – Violin on *Remember, Gift of the Ether, Beyond the Veil, Ridvan and On Holy Ground. Flute on Land & Sea and Ridvan*

Nicolas Hernandez – Spanish guitar on *Portrait of Grace, The Mystery and The Covenant*

Produced by Asher Lenz, Brett Smith and Michael Dragoman

Recorded at Smith & Dragoman Studios, Guelph, Ontario
Mixed by Michael Jack @ The Radio Room, Barrie, Ontario

Mastered by Peter Letros @ Wreckhouse Mastering, Toronto

Design and layout by Lua O'Toole – www.lucadesign.ca



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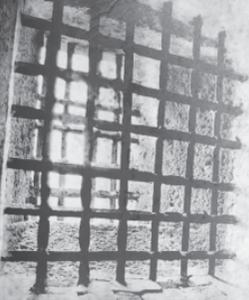
Additional thanks to the extended families of Brett Smith and Michael Dragoman, and especially to Meim and David Smith and Clair and Sue Dragoman. Your ongoing generosity and support is truly appreciated.

Emily would like to say a special thank you to her mom, Jane Vaillancourt, for her tireless love and support.

And finally thanks to all of our fans who continue to support us from around the globe – we are so grateful for your generous emails and kind words of encouragement.

Sincerely,

Brett Smith & Michael Dragoman



13 Prisoners

[Dedicated to all the Bahá'ís in Iran who are currently imprisoned for their beliefs.]

I can hear the voices singing, chanting behind the walls
Locked away in their prison cells, and they've done
nothing at all
Their courage makes us stronger, their quiet resolve
gives us wings
All the suffering they endure, will only the blessings
bring

Chorus

And we're here for you
Standing in serried lines
Let our thoughts and prayers wash over you
And comfort you in the cold night

The door is locked and the key is gone, your loved ones
cry out in pain

Where is the justice, where is the law, yet you patiently
remain

Can you feel the millions of souls, your brothers and
sisters in song

They cannot extinguish the light in our hearts, the fire
of love's burning strong

Chorus

You can hear the sound of chanting escape from her
cell
A prayer for forgiveness, wishing her captors well
The prisoners of Tehran, their freedom denied
How we long for your release when you can take back
your lives

You can take them and shroud them in darkness
You can tear them away from their lives
But you will never break down the doors
To their faithful hearts and minds



Credits

Brett Smith – Music and lyrics for *Tears of a Child*,
Ridvan, *Portrait of Grace*, *The Covenant and Prisoners*

Brett Smith and Maureen O'Neill – Lyrics for *The*
Covenant

Michael Dragoman – Music for *Remember*, *Beyond*
the Veil, *The Mystery*, *Gift of the Ether*, *On Holy Ground*
and Note in a Bottle

Heather Poole Dragoman – Lyrics for *Remember*, *The*
Mystery, *Gift of the Ether*, *On Holy Ground and Note*
in a Bottle

Michael Dragoman, Heather Poole Dragoman and
Brett Smith – Lyrics for *Beyond the Veil*

Emily Dragoman and Asher Lenz – Music and lyrics
for *Land & Sea* and music for *The Trust Among Us*

Emily Dragoman, Asher Lenz and Adam Crossley –
Lyrics for *The Trust Among Us*

11 The Mystery

[Abdu'l-Bahá was referred to by Bahá'u'lláh
as *The Mystery of God*, alluding to His unique
station in this world]

Light pours from the flame
City of black turns silver
He rises up with the dawn
Washed in the light of the sun

Lead is spun into gold
Tearing hearts can now become whole
Keeper of the key
You were the first One to see

Pre-Chorus

Perfect reflection to mirror His Light
You are the pure heart's desire
Shield for the Glory, His spirit now free
Revealing the truth of the Mystery

Chorus

Oh the magic, the Mystery, the Mystery
Lifting the veil so we can see

Unlock the door to the worlds
The verses of oneness now sung
His power uniting the hearts
Hope of a new day's begun

Pre-Chorus

Chorus x2

Should this torch light up the world
His vision unveiled
Delightful Ridvan revealed
His tireless spirit enkindled the world

Chorus

12 Tears of a Child

[This is a moving account of the story of Abdu'l-Bahá
as a nine year-old boy who was taken to see His Father
in a deplorable prison in Tehran.]

Far away a distant land a distant time
There's a boy, a little child, only nine
A loyal son, His father's cause becomes His own
And the attacks rain down on His home
Just a boy and the mother all alone

Wrongly accused the father's gone taken away
To a dungeon with no light of day
The boy is strong and He tries to carry on
His heart bleeding for His father's song
How can they do Him so wrong

Chorus

How many nights, how many days
The child cries the child prays for Him to come home again
His soul's awake, He's feeling weak His little tears stream
down His cheek
But He must be strong and carry on

Far away, underground the father's torn
His heart bleeding for the love of His son
His only wish to comfort Him, and dry the tears
And to hold Him, in His arms
To shield the boy from harm

Chorus

The child goes to see Him
"Do not bring him in here"*
The galling chains the sorrow and pain
He falls to the ground and faints
His heart would be the first to see
The change He'd recognize
A different man He'd come to serve
The light within His eyes

* Abdu'l-Bahá expressing His Father's words, quoted in Zargarí,
Badá'iy'u'l-Áthár 206, as quoted and translated in Balyuzi,
Abdu'l-Bahá 11-12.

3 Gift of the Ether

[Abdu'l-Bahá touched the lives of countless souls who crossed His path. He also had the profound ability to connect with hearts in dreams and visions. This is the gift of the ether.]

Oh bird that lifts thy weary head
Awakened by the dawn
Discover thy wings & lift in flight
And soar in the realms beyond
And leave the dust behind.

Chorus

What is this light in the mirror of hearts
That shines so bright so deep within
This is the force calling you home
A strength, a power you cannot see
Invisible waves the mingling of souls
The gift of the ether.

His mystic breath enchants thy dreams
Sweet scent intoxicates
The still reflects a call to know
A spark that spreads the Servant's glow
Ignites the lamp within.

Chorus

Instrumental

Chorus

4 Ridván

["Ridván" in the Persian language means paradise. This is what the followers of Bahá'u'lláh experienced while in His presence in the garden of Ridván in 1863 as He was about to be exiled from Bagdad to Turkey.]

Nightingales sing, a cry from the heart
They yearn for the roses, warbling in the dark
Journey to the garden, a King on the waves
The nightingales rejoice, and sing out in praise

An Exile with His sons, those sacred lives
Twelve days they would stay, to say their goodbyes
He walks out from His tent, and strolls through the night
The Ridván of the earth, the roses piled high

Pre-Chorus

The world is longing, the heavens are calling
Spirit is gathering force

Chorus

Come with me oh my, oh my dearest friend
Let me take you down to His garden
Across the water of mystery to the shores of divinity
Countless souls come to say good-bye
They hear Him chanting under the night sky
The words that fall from His, from His ancient tongue
Oh a new springtime has come

Lay me down to rest, in the garden of peace
Where time stood still, I am down on my knees
The ether flows all creation made new
Behold the Ancient of Days

Hundreds would come to bid farewell
Take comfort in His words, a tablet for everyone
And listen to Him at night, under moonlit skies
Chanting the verses, in the garden of paradise

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

12 Beyond the Veil (Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá)

[Abdu'l-Bahá is about to pass into the next world. In his last days He tells the friends that His work is done, and asks them to carry His message of love to the world.]

In a mystical time, when The Mystery tread the earth
Servant to all
a candle of light, weeping His life away
Drop by drop

Oh fettered Bird, in the cage of an ailing world
"Kindle His light"
"in tears before Thy face"
"At the heavenly entrance of Thy Gate"

Pre-Chorus

"My presence will be with you always"

Chorus

"I have laboured [day and night]"
I must leave and take My flight
and "no strength is there left in Me"
"I've done all that could be done"

His father calls, a call to return to Him
The work is done
And His family awaits, they patiently wait for Him
Beyond the veil
and He yearns everyday to take His flight

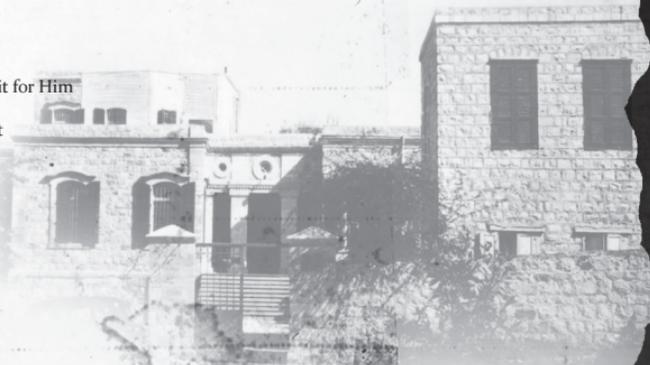
Pre-Chorus

Chorus

Instrumental (Ascension)

Only one joy remained, for His pure heart to be fulfilled
His dying wish
That the friends raise the call, and carry His gift of love
To the world
And the Son of Bahá has winged His flight

(Compilations, Bahá'í Scriptures, p. 503)
(Abdu'l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 318)
(Shoghi Effendi, God Passes By, p. 309-311)



10 On Holy Ground

[A soldier (Tudor Pole), who had been inspired by 'Abdu'l-Bahá's message of Peace, is mystically guided to safety and then called to action in protection of the Master's life.]

Thirsty red war for the old Roman wells
Such darkness on holy ground
A presence unseen said "Lay back your head"
That I and He might live

Empty your bowls ye angels of old
Blood that I cannot drink
Bullet pierced through, my fate He decides
And leads me to life in new waters

Chorus

Oh let the water, let it run clear
Help them to see just as You do
Faith to believe the Great Peace will come
And heal the wounds forever

'Oh noble friends the light of truth shines
The sea of unity is lifting
Up waves of joy, communication real
In the hearts and minds of all.'

Chorus

I would send the message
No risk could be too great
I have lived these miracles
That His precious life be saved, to be freed

Chorus

11 The Trust Among Us

[‘Abdu’l-Bahá was a fearless servant of the poor. Throughout His life He spent much of His time tending to the needs of the sick and the vulnerable, giving away what little He had and spreading a message of love. He referred to the poor as "the trust among us".]

A fearless Servant of the poor
This Prisoner freer than us all
"...good ground is made ready by the rain"¹
And it pours down on Him ...

Pre-Chorus

... He gave
All He had away
Easing of hunger and pain

Chorus

He is everywhere
The world will never be the same
For His love remains with us
'Abdu'l-Bahá

He heard the crying of His trust
"...the midnight sighing of the poor"²
Though weighted down and bound in chain
He clothed them in His love ...

Pre-Chorus

...And gave
All He had away
Easing of hunger and pain

Chorus

He is everywhere
The world will never be the same
For His love remains with us
'Abdu'l-Bahá

¹ 'An Early Pilgrimage' by May Maxwell

² Hidden Words, Persian #49

15 Land & Sea

[A song inspired by the love that May Maxwell felt for 'Abdu'l-Bahá, her dream of Him when she was a child and her tireless service to His cause throughout her life.]

I'll cross land and sea
To follow Thee
Take me on a journey of love

Lead my steps aright
By Your light and Your life
Fill me with the fire of love

Chorus

How You came to me
Even only in a dream
Shining light on what
I could not see
I will follow Thee
In discomfort or in ease
I'll cross land and sea

I have heard Your call
And set out from my home
Restless and ablaze I will go

When my time has come
And my service is done
Let me circle round where You lay

Chorus

Instrumental

Chorus



16 Portrait of Grace

[Juliet Thompson has the opportunity to paint a portrait of 'Abdu'l-Bahá during His visit to New York in 1912. For a brief moment she receives a glimpse of His grandeur and the magnitude of His character.]

Remember the days of the Master
My heart drew me down to His feet
The tenderness showered upon me
I knew that His spirit was free

Pre-Chorus

White robes are flowing, the world won't contain Him
The Mystery drawing me near
And He holds my head on His heart, on His heart

That night on the rooftops in Akka
His chanting would quiver my soul
The moon and the stars His companions
The power of love I'd behold

White hair is flowing the Servant of Glory
Majesty calm and divine
And He holds my head on His heart, on His heart

Chorus

The artist is trembling inside
Her hand she prays He'll guide
To capture the essence of Him, One so divine
And He lifts the veil from her eyes
His portrait she'll soon realize
The infinite peace on His face, a portrait of grace
Portrait of grace

So frail my spirit before Him
His gaze I could hardly endure
I'll follow those footsteps forever
A pillar of fire so pure

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

Inspired by phrases from The Diary of Juliet Thompson



8 The Covenant

[*'Abdu'l-Bahá was appointed by Bahá'u'lláh as His successor and protector of this new-born Faith. He was named the Centre of the Covenant.*]

The cord that pulls me closer, to the centre of the moon
He came into this world on the king of days, not a
moment too soon
All the spirit of faith contained in Him, like a vessel He
encompassed the Word
The ark on the water through stormy seas, He sails on
unperturbed

He wore the holy Aba, the Holy One from the East
In the soul of the world He built a fire, and I'm burning
away in its heat
Oh the promise is made with creation, a covenant for
all humankind
A fortress of strength for my wandering heart, to its
magnet of love I will bind

Chorus

And then, He holds out His hand, He's doing His part,
the promise of ages past
And I'm drawn like a cord to the covenant, Oh I cling to
the hem of His garment

The pure and stainless mirror, in the station of servitude
The pivot of oneness in a fractured world, born of the
Ancient Root
In the Tablet of the Branch He named You, the
appointed One to shepherd the herd
The Perfect Exemplar to guide the way, Interpreter of
His Word

Chorus

"Be thou so steadfast in my love that thy heart shall not
waver"
"Even if...the heavens and [the] earth arise against thee"
"Be thou as a flame of fire...and a river of life eternal"
"[And] be not shaken... for I am with you always...
As ye have faith so shall your powers and blessings be"⁴

¹Bahá'u'lláh, *Bahá'í Prayers*, pg. 212

²*Ibid.*, p. 211

³*Ibid.*, p. 211

⁴*'Abdu'l-Bahá. Quoted by May Maxwell, An Early Pilgrimage*, p. 40.



9 Note in a Bottle

[*When a young child sees a tabloid photo of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in a window, she recognizes Him from a recurring dream. The mother is so moved by her daughter's certainty that she boards the first available ship to seek His presence.*]

Somewhere outside of time
Angels whispered a dream
Somewhere that I could not see
I felt your heart call to me

Sailing this journey I heard your song
An image through glass, the one that I long
Drawn by an essence I can't explain
The ocean cries and the wind sings your name

Chorus

Like a note in a bottle found on the waves
Your whisper reaches my heart and it calls my name

My ship on the sea searching for you
An island lost in the storm
Life rolls and thunders in currents of rhyme
Questions will answer in time.

Chorus

Instrumental

The storm falls away, the wind lifts us high
Sails turn to wings, and pure hearts can fly
Paradise soars, I still cannot see,
how did you whisper to me

17 Remember

[*'Abdu'l-Bahá is departing America and Juliet shares the agony of saying goodbye. She recalls 'Abdu'l-Bahá's words of comfort and feels the weight of the responsibility He placed on her to carry out His wishes.*]

My longing heart outside Your door
my gaze of You will not fill
I beg your words to comfort me
Tears well within

Your patient hand waves goodbye
Till blended with the sea
Wave on wave they drown my heart
Your face such agony
Trust in me to hear Your call

You said "Remember, I'm with you always
My hope is your hope
That I will see you again"
You healed my broken heart
That night with the tone of Your voice
Sweet essence of tenderness
Will I see You again

I fear You won't call me
Ever again to Your side
I pray my life please You, but how
How can my heart, my mind, my soul
How can I say goodbye

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- [1] The Mystery
 - [2] Tears of a Child
 - [3] Gift of the Ether
 - [4] Ridván
 - [5] Land & Sea
 - [6] Portrait of Grace
 - [7] Remember
 - [8] The Covenant
 - [9] Note in a Bottle
 - [10] On Holy Ground
 - [11] The Trust Among Us
 - [12] Beyond the Veil
[Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá]
 - [13] Prisoners

Produced by Asher Lenz, Brett Smith & Michael Dragoman
Recorded at Smith & Dragoman Studios, Guelph, Ontario

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