

forced to work hard in the fields for a living. As a result he barely learned to read and write.

The years rolled by and Abdul Qadir reached the age of twenty-two. One day, quite late in the evening when he was alone in the house, he received a letter, which was addressed in his name. Can you imagine his excitement – a letter for him! But only when he returned to the fields the next day, certain that no one would see him there, did he open the letter and with great difficulty read:

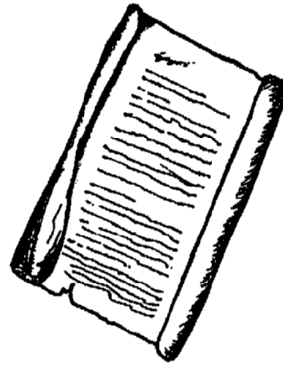
To the honourable Abdul Qadir, son of Mubarak: Peace be unto you. I, the writer of this letter, am Abdul Aziz, the brother of your mother.

Some years ago I heard what happened to you and that you were still alive. I rejoice that you are still alive, for you are flesh of my flesh and blood of my blood. My heart goes out to you.

Dear Abdul Qadir, you are unaware that you are in the midst of enemies, who have robbed you of your inheritance, which your father left you. When I was informed of this sad state of affairs, I determined to buy back your inheritance in order that it may be yours once more. Now after years of great toil and suffering, I have paid the high price and possess the deed to this vast property. The deed is in the hands of the Khadi (a judge), whose name and address I am enclosing. The deed needs only your signature so that the property will become yours. Now take this letter to the Khadi and identify yourself. Then when we meet on a future day, we will rejoice together.



Never had Abdul Qadir heard anything like this in his whole life; he did not know what to believe. Was he, a poor boy, obliged to work like a slave for little food for the rest of his life? Or was he really an heir to vast riches? He could not remember how many times he read the letter, so great was his excitement. Finally he hid it under a stone to hide it from his master.



The next morning he told his master everything. His master became very angry. "What a foolish boy you are!" he said. "Do you think that you are the only Abdul Qadir in this world? This letter was meant for another Abdul Qadir, not for you."

To which the boy replied: "It may be so; still, my name is written on the

letter. I shall travel to this place to find out about the matter, and then we will see what happens."

The master tried hard to persuade Abdul Qadir to show him the letter, yet even the master's threats could not change his mind. Before sunset Abdul Qadir secretly returned to the place where the letter was hidden. Again and again he read it.

That night after the evening meal, several of the village elders who had enjoyed a meal with the master spoke to Abdul Qadir: "Young boy," they said, "listen to us and accept our wisdom. Do not believe that letter which came to you. Someone is deceiving you and playing a trick on you. The letter is a fraud and the signature forged. Bring us the letter and we will prove that it is false." Again Abdul Qadir refused. Though the elders were very angry, they felt they could do nothing more at the time.

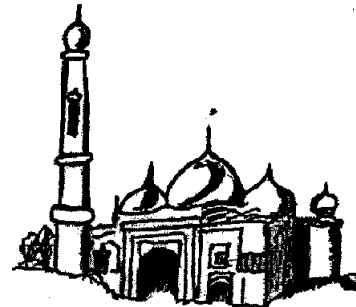
Still, the words of the elders struck doubt in the heart of Abdul Qadir. Suppose what they said was true? He resolved to enquire about the matter next morning when he went to the market. After searching for a long time he found a man who knew the place from which the letter came. Only a year ago this man had even visited the town. This man told Abdul Qadir: "In that town there lives a man whose name is Abdul Aziz. Everyone in town speaks of his goodness and fine character. They say that he once was a very wealthy man; yet for the past few years he has been living as if he were in a state of poverty, toiling desperately and saving his income for a strange and mysterious purpose."

It appeared that the purpose for Abdul Aziz's toil was not completely clear to the man who spoke these words to Abdul Qadir. But Abdul Qadir understood! His heart throbbed with hope and joy such as he had never experienced in his whole life. He knew the purpose of Abdul Aziz's work of love. It was for him, for Abdul Qadir!



Once more Abdul Qadir informed his master that he intended to journey to that place. Again the master threatened him, saying that he would imprison him. And so he did. But God was with Abdul Qadir.

During the night Abdul Qadir worked very hard to dig a hole under the wall, and escaped. By the light of the moon he found his letter and directed his steps to the town of Abdul Aziz. He hid by day and journeyed by night until he was far away from his master. Many more times he re-read the letter during the course of his journey! It gave him hope and courage. After several weeks of journey and further enquiry, he arrived in that town and found the home of the Khadi. When the Khadi answered the knock on his door, he saw a young man who hardly looked like the heir of a great estate! Abdul Qadir had sold all he possessed to buy food during the journey. His body was covered with rags and his feet were bare. Still, the Khadi was pleased as Abdul Qadir identified himself and showed him the letter. "You have done well," he said. "Abdul Aziz did not wish to compel you to come. He wished



to see if you would trust his promise, and have courage to make the journey. Now that you have come, we shall complete the deed in the presence of witnesses. Then you will possess what is your own."

As Abdul Qadir lay down to sleep

that night, can you imagine how he felt? Now he was certain it was not a dream. He really was the owner of a vast property and many houses! And he promised to do all in his power to take proper care of his new possessions.

There is little need to tell you how happy Abdul Qadir was from this time on, and how he marvelled at the beauty of all he possessed. Most of all, however, he longed for that day when he would meet Abdul Aziz, for he could never forget that it was Abdul Aziz who had yielded his property and given it to him. Truly, he esteemed the redeemer more precious than the redeemed!

Friends, there is a letter that has come from a distant place for you also. This letter is the New Testament (*Injil Muqaddas*), which has come from God through his servants. It tells you about an inheritance which God has prepared for you. This inheritance can't be lost like earthly things, which pass away, but it is pure, perfect and eternal.

Among the treasures of this eternal inheritance are forgiveness of your sins, salvation from the terrible punishment, the gift of a new life and peace with God. Do you know that God has already willed this heavenly inheritance to you? You only have to accept it by choosing it freely.

This letter also tells you how God has prepared this great inheritance for you. It tells you how God sent Jesus the Messiah to toil and suffer for you. The Messiah has forsaken the riches and splendour of his dwelling with God in heaven and sacrificed Himself for YOU. He has even come into this world as man in order to lay down His life for you. His resurrection from the dead is God's guarantee that His inheritance is truly yours.

But why did the Messiah do this for you? It is because, as this letter also states, you are in the hands of an enemy, Satan. He has attempted to rob you of your inheritance. He wants to keep you in darkness and ignorance about this inheritance so that you know nothing about it. Because God

loves you, the Messiah has toiled to redeem your inheritance and to free you from the grip of Satan.

Friend, do you have faith in this promise of God? Do you have the courage to leave your old life of sin and slavery to Satan? Are you prepared to receive the great gift which God longs to give you?

No doubt some people will discourage you. They will tell you to remain in the situation in which you have always lived. Others will tell you that the letter, the New Testament, is meant for someone else, not for you. Still others will say that the letter is not genuine; that its message is false, and that its promises are nothing but lies.

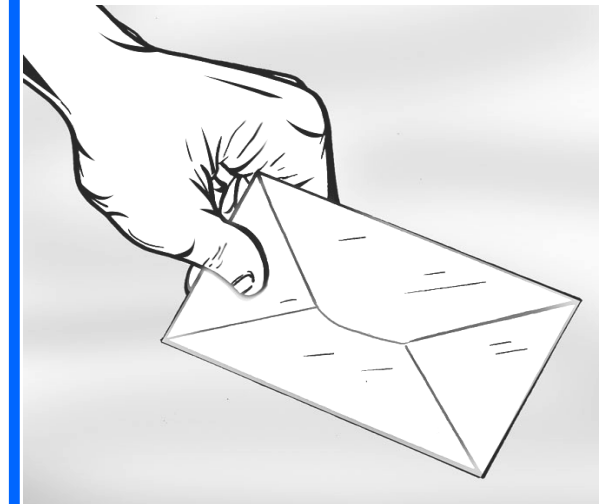
Yet, friend, this letter is addressed to you, as it is to all sinners. Read it carefully and with an open heart. As you see its truth and discover the value of this eternal inheritance, your heart, like that of Abdul Qadir, will rejoice in your new possession. You will be rich in pardon, in peace and in the new life the Messiah has won for you. And you will eagerly await the opportunity to meet the Messiah, to thank Him and to rejoice with Him when He returns again from heaven into this world.

God is great! Praise God who does all things well!

If you wish to find out more about Jesus the Messiah, we are willing to send you an important and interesting booklet entitled ONE GOD ONE MESSAGE, a correspondence course, free of charge. Please write your name and address clearly and send your request to:

Life Challenge Africa
P.O. Box 50770
Nairobi—00200
KENYA
info@lifechallenge.de

THE STORYTELLER



A LETTER FROM A FAR COUNTRY

I know you will be interested in hearing the story of Abdul Qadir. Even before Abdul Qadir was two years old, his parents died. They left their son a large property and houses as an inheritance. His father's brother was appointed to be guardian of the boy and of his inheritance.

Such an arrangement would have been quite fine under ordinary circumstances. But it so happened that Abdul Qadir's uncle was an evil man. He sent the little boy far away to another relative who also cared little for the boy. Then his uncle spread the report that Abdul Qadir was dead. He sold the property and spent the money to satisfy his selfish desires.

As Abdul Qadir grew older, he was informed that he was an orphan, poor and homeless, dependent upon the charity of others. From this time on, he was