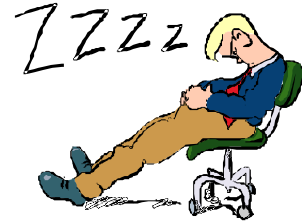


# The Tree of Life

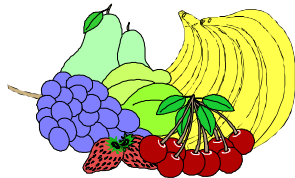
(A play by Chris Abbas)

This is a very simple play that can be performed by one person or several. It is suitable for adults and children. It can be made more interesting by putting lots of expression into the voices, swirling coloured scarves, using movement or dance and by playing background music. If several people are involved there could also be a little group at the side for speaking and singing. Use your imagination!!!

**SCENE:** A person or people in interesting sleeping poses, but not lying flat on the floor. (*Sleeper awakens, stretches and yawns, and slowly rises*)



**Voice or voices:** I saw a tree. It stood so tall. Its branches spread so wide. And on this tree there was fruit. Apples! And plums! (*with delight and excitement*) And oranges, and bananas, and figs and melons and strawberries and... every kind of fruit you could imagine. And this fruit... (*begins to pick and eat*)... it was more delicious than any other, and all the people in the world came to eat it. When they ate it they felt happier and friendlier and more loving than they had ever done before.



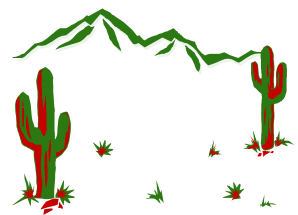
(*Pause and thinking, then speak with determination*)

**I will find this tree and I will eat this fruit so that I can be happier and love all the world.**

(*"Blessed is the Spot" music in background*)

(*Actions can be put to each of the places mentioned*)

**Voice:** I will go to every spot, knock on every door, and search every place. I will pass through every city and ask every person (*touch heart*). Every mountain will I climb and every place of safety I shall seek, whilst every cave I will rest in and every valley I will travel. Every land I will visit and all the seas will I cross. Every island and even all the meadows will my footsteps tread until I have found this heavenly tree and then I will eat this fruit.



(*fade music*)

(*Play background music to match searching movements. Music and movements begin to quieten and become weary.*)

**Voice:** (*speak in sad or disappointed tone*)

**I cannot find this wonderful tree.** (*pause then look as though people are passing*). Here are some others. I will ask them. Have you found the heavenly tree? (*No-one wants to be helpful*). Oh, where is the delicious fruit? Do you know where I can find the tree? And you?

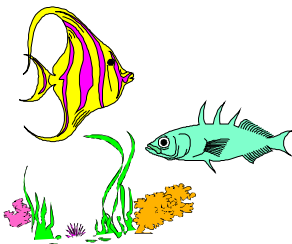
(*Extremely sadly*): I have searched for many years and I am so tired, so

tired.....so tired. (*Falls back to sleep*)

(*Background music: "Love Me that I may love thee" sung gently a few times and sleeper/s begin to awaken again.*)

**Voice:** (*looking up and sounding more hopeful*): **There was a baby. On the day that He was born the world seemed to cry, "God is Most Great! God is Most Great!" He shone like a precious jewel.** (*A blue or white silky scarf could be picked up from the floor and waved to represent the ocean.*)

**In a dream His father saw Him swimming in the ocean. His body shone like the sun and His long black hair was floating around Him.** (*Use the scarf and gentle dance movements.*)



**Many fishes saw the light and swam towards Him and each one held a hair.**

**Although there were so many fish, He was able to swim wherever He wanted and the fish swam with Him.** (*Continue sea and graceful fishlike movements.*)

(*Allow the scarf to float down to the floor or drape it over your shoulder.*)

*Say this in a different tone of voice as if you are trying to say something very important*): **A wise man said the sea was all the world and this child was to be the King of all the world. Everyone would love Him and obey Him and the world would be a happier place.**

(*pause*)

**Baha`u`llah! Baha`u`llah! His Name is Baha`u`llah and He will make the people happy. He will tell us many things and we will be happy. He is like a tree and His words are like the fruit. The heavenly tree and heavenly fruit. I have found the Heavenly Tree!**

*Song: I have found Baha`u`llah in the early days of my life. (or similar)*

**Voice:** **I want to share this heavenly fruit.** (*Speaking to the audience*):  
**Would you like to have some heavenly fruit? Then we must search and find it.**  
(*Speak as you move off stage*): **Come!**

