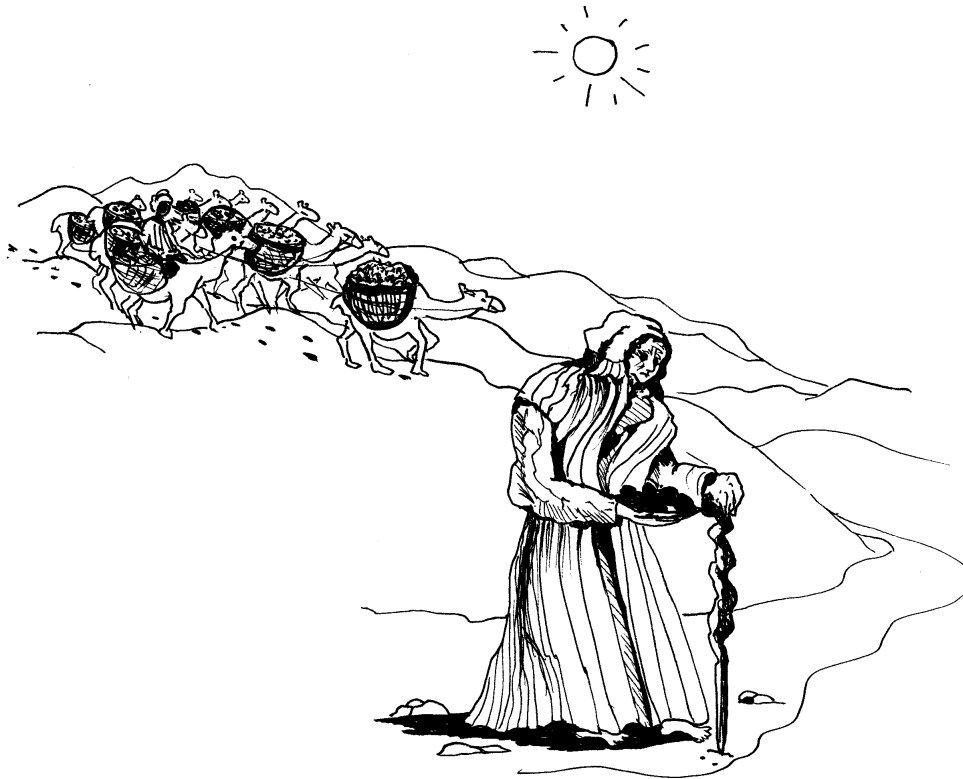


# THE VALUE OF



When someone makes a sacrifice we are not always able to measure the power of the good it will do. The important thing is not the amount of money or the value of the gift. Something given with a real desire to do good may have a greater effect than a much larger amount given with less feeling.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá tells this story of a sacrifice made during the time of Mohammed:

The Prophet Mohammed wanted to teach the Cause of God, and needed help from His followers. Among them was one man who gave a thousand camels, each laden with corn. Another gave half of everything he had, while still another offered all that he had.

There was a very old woman who owned only one thing -- a handful of dates. She came to the Apostle and laid them at His feet.



Mohammed said that this handful of dates should be placed over and above all the other gifts that had been gathered. This was because the old lady had given everything she had with a pure heart.

# SACRIFICE

There is a very similar story in the Bible:

One day Jesus and His disciples were sitting near the entrance of the temple. People passing through were placing their offerings of money into the collecting boxes. As they walked by, many richly-dressed men opened their bulging money bags with a flourish, jingled their gold coins, then threw a generous handful into the open mouth of one of the chests.



The disciples were very impressed. How pleased God must be with these wealthy and generous men. They scarcely noticed a shabby woman, in widow's dress, who quickly and quietly slipped two tiny coins into one of the chests before hurrying past. But Jesus had seen her. He told the disciples that she had given more than anyone else.

The disciples knew for a fact that this was not true. Her two coins had been so little compared with the gold shekels that the rich men had given. But Jesus explained that God does not judge by the amount we give, but by what it costs us, and by what is in our hearts when we give it.

**When you give money at the next Feast, remember that the amount is not as important as your wish to make this sacrifice.**