

## BEST FRIEND

Exodus 33 · 1-23

July 190

The Lord said to Moses, "Leave, and go from here; you and the people that you have brought out of the land of Egypt. Go to the land which I promised to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite. Go to a land flowing with milk and honey. I will not go up among you, for you are stiffnecked people, and I may consume you along the way."

When the people heard the terrible news that the Lord would not be among them as they traveled, they mourned, and every man took off any ornaments that he was wearing. The Lord had told Moses to tell the people, "You are a stiffnecked people. I may come upon you in a moment and consume you. Now take off your ornaments and wait to see what I will do."

Then the children of Israel stripped themselves of all their ornaments by the mount Horeb. Moses took the tabernacle and pitched it outside the camp, a great distance from the camp. He called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. Every person that sought the Lord went out to the tabernacle that stood outside the camp.

Whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, the people would come and stand at their tent doors. They would watch Moses until he went into the tabernacle. When Moses entered the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar would descend and stand at the tabernacle door, and the Lord would talk with Moses.

The people saw the pillar at the tabernacle door and they got up and worshipped, every man in his tent door.

There in the tabernacle door the Lord spoke to Moses. The Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.

When Moses returned from speaking with God, Joshua the servant of Moses did not return to the camp with him. Instead of returning to the camp, Joshua stayed at the tabernacle.

Moses said to the Lord, "You have said to me, 'Bring up this people.' But you have not told me who will go with me. Yet, you have told me that you know my name and that I have found grace in your sight. Show me now your way, so that I may know you, and find grace in your sight, and consider that this nation is your people."

Then the Lord answered, "My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest."

Moses said, "If your presence does not go with me, do not take us from here. For that is how all the peoples know that I and these people have found grace in your sight. It is your presence among us that separates us from all the others peoples of the earth."

The Lord replied, "I will do as you have asked, because you have found grace in my sight., and I know you my your name."

Again Moses spoke, saying, "Please show me your glory."

The Lord said, "I will make my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. You can not look on my face, for no man can see me and live. Look, there is a place by me where you can stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and will cover you with my hand while I pass by. Then I will take away my hand and you will see my back. But you may not see my face."

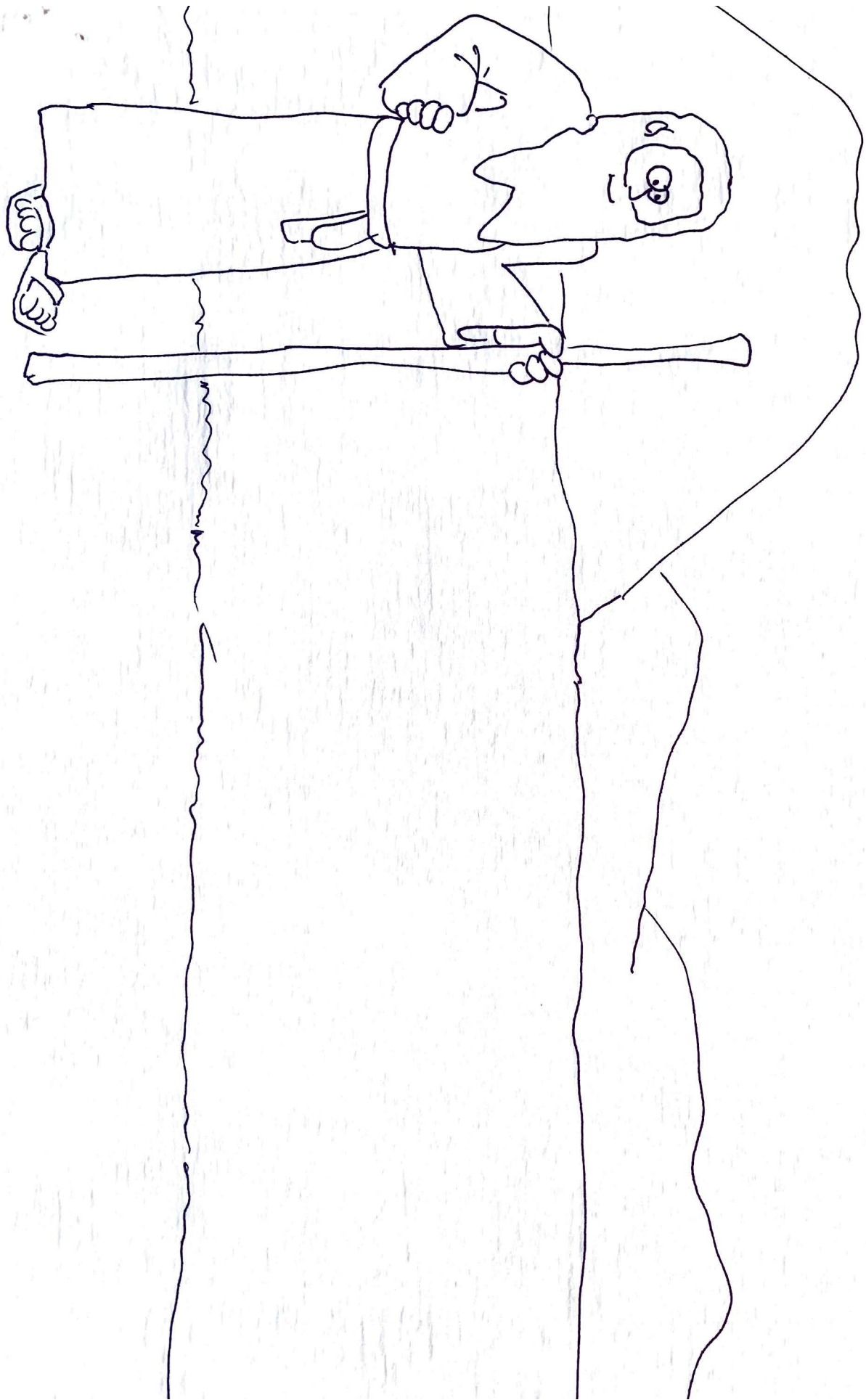
How kind and good God is to allow mere man to be a friend of his. He offers each of us the opportunity to know him as our dearest and closest friend, if we are willing to make him the most important person in our lives. Moses and the people realized that to be without the presence of God is the saddest and most lonely existence.

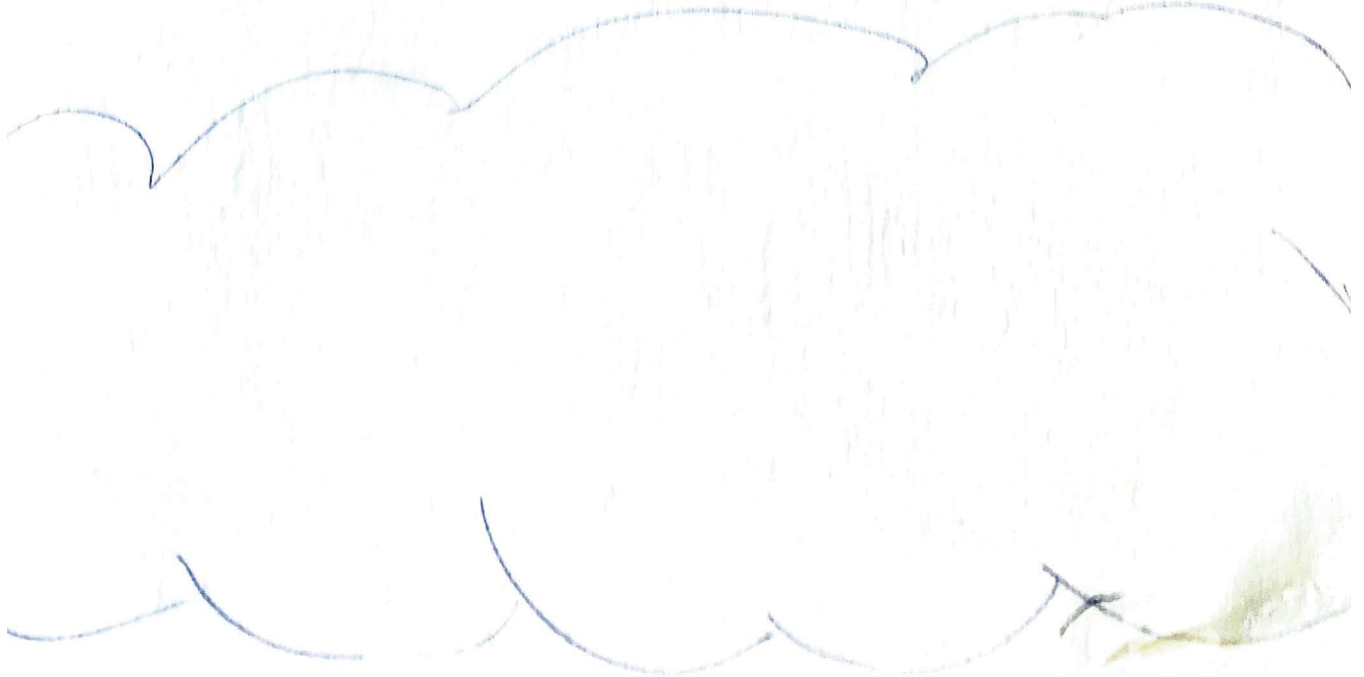
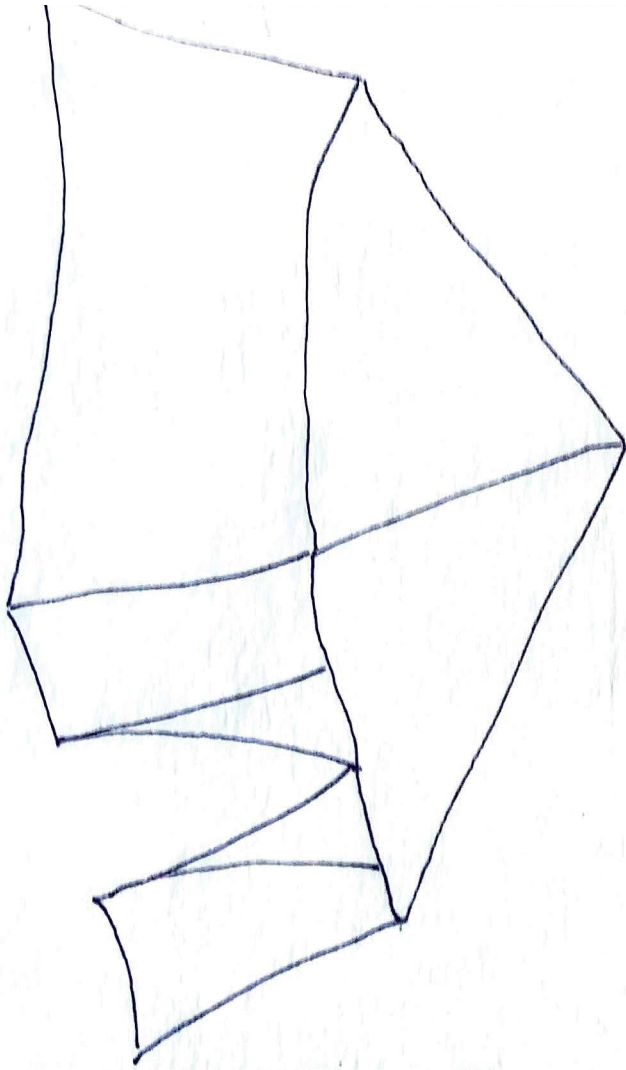
LEARN : Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

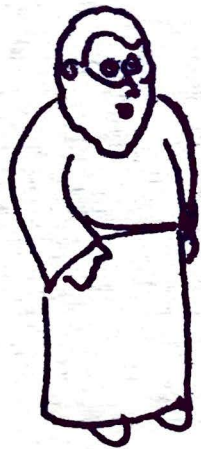
Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

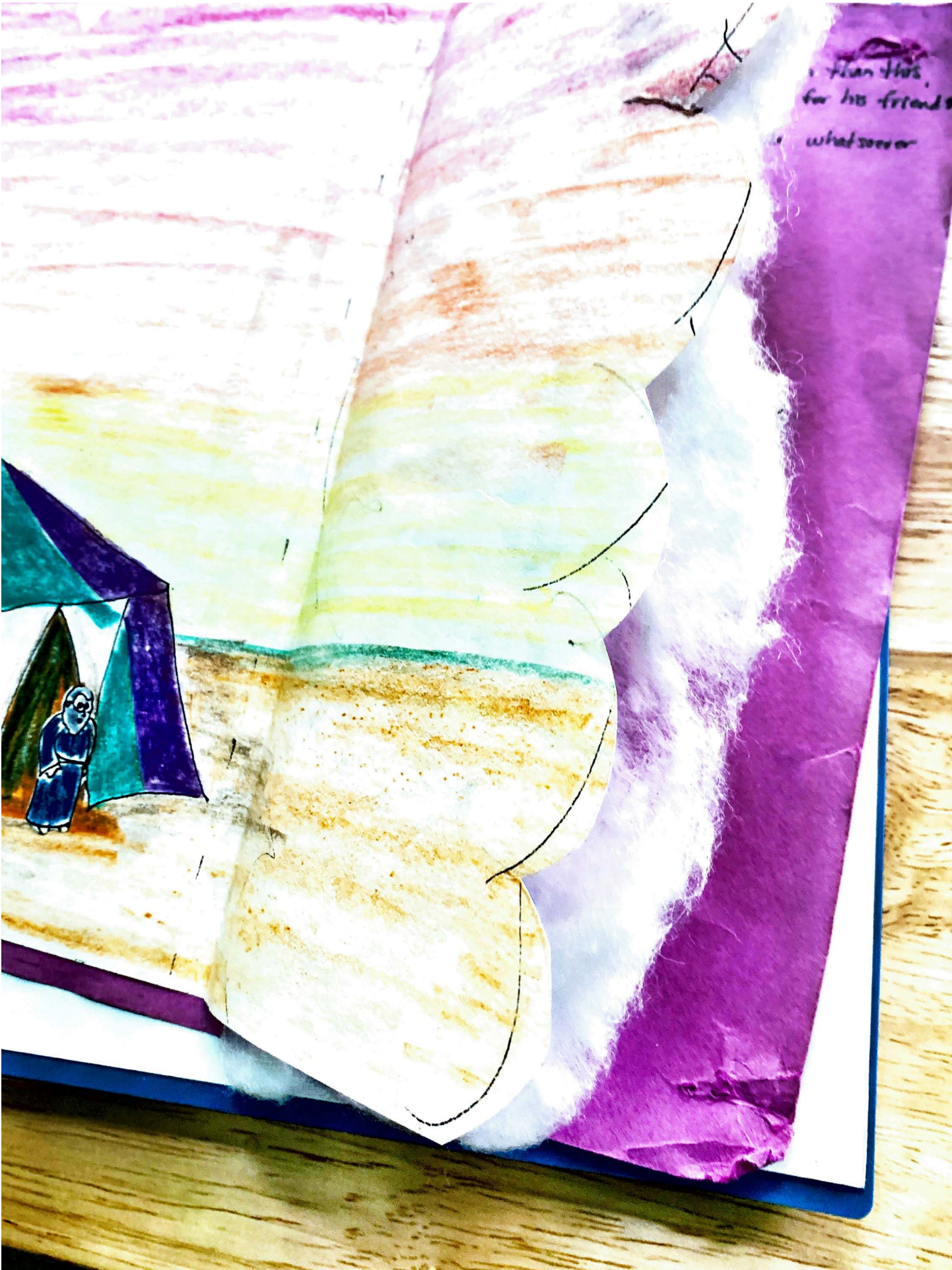
John 15:13,14

1. Color the tent and Moses.
2. Cut Moses out and post  
in the door of the tent (tabernacle)
3. Fold cloud over on dotted lines  
to cover tabernacle door.
4. Use cotton to make cloud.
5. Trim cloud edge on side  
that cover tabernacle.









... than this,  
for his friend  
... whatever



Greater love hath no man than  
that a man lay down his life for his  
Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever  
I command you.

John 15:13, 14

