

## *The Key to Living is Giving*

By Helen Rice Steiner

A very favorite story of mine  
Is about *two* seas in *Palestine*

One is sparkling sapphire jewel,  
Its waters are clean and clear and cool,  
Along its shores the children play  
And travelers seek it on their way,  
And Nature gives lavishly  
Her choicest gems to the *Galilee*:

But on the south the Jordan flows  
Into a sea where nothing grows,  
No splash of fish, no singing bird,  
No children's laughter is ever heard,  
The air hangs heavy all around  
And *Nature* shuns this barren ground:

Both seas receive the Jordan's flow,  
The water is just the same, we know,  
But one of the seas, like liquid sun,  
Can warm the hearts of everyone,  
While farther south another sea  
Is dead and dark and miserly-  
It takes each drop the Jordan brings  
And to each drop it fiercely clings,  
It hoards and holds the Jordan's waves  
Until like shackled, captured slaves  
The fresh, clear Jordan turns to salt  
And dies within the *Dead Sea's* vault:

But the Jordan flows rapturously  
As it enters and leaves the *Galilee*,  
For every drop that the Jordan gives  
Becomes a laughing wave that lives-  
For the *Galilee* gives back each drop,  
Its waters flow and never stop,  
And in this laughing, living sea  
That takes and gives so generously  
We find the way to *life* and *living*  
It is not in *keeping*, but in *giving*!

Yes, there are *two Palestinian seas*  
And mankind is fashioned after these!

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