

# THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS, SON OF GOD

When the animals and plants of the natural world make sacrifices, they have no choice. But people are different. God has given us free will and whether we choose to make a sacrifice or not is up to us. The Manifestations of God have always chosen to do what God wants, not what they want for themselves. This is one of the things that makes them different from everyone else.

Jesus knew that He was going to be arrested and killed, and in the most painful way, by being hung on a cross. Before He was arrested and taken away to be crucified, Jesus prayed quietly in the Garden of Gethsemane. He said to His disciples, "My heart is ready to break with grief". He spoke to God, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as You will." Three times Jesus repeated this prayer. He was explaining that He did not want to suffer this pain, but even so, He would do as God wished.

At this stage Jesus could easily have escaped and gone into hiding, but because it was the Will of God, He allowed Himself to be arrested.

It is difficult for us to understand why God wished for His own Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer in this way. But we know that it was a sacrifice. Jesus willingly gave up His life so that something wonderful would happen as a result.

Bahá'u'lláh tells us:

**"Know thou that when the Son of Man yielded up His breath to God, the whole creation wept with a great weeping. By sacrificing Himself, however, a fresh capacity was infused into all created things."**

*Gleanings 36*

