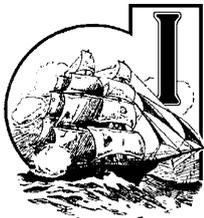
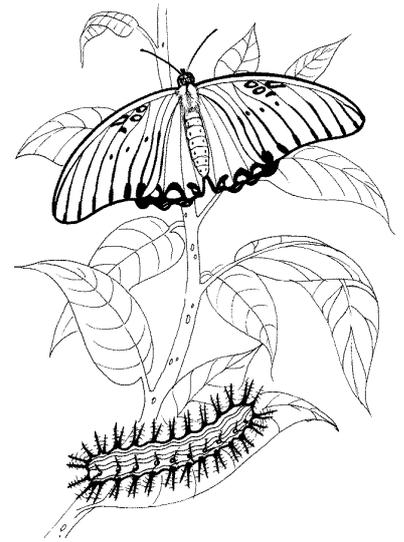


The Butterfly

Noted journalist Arthur Brisbane once pictured a crowd of grieving caterpillars carrying the corpse of a cocoon to its final resting place. The poor, distressed caterpillars, clad in black raiment, were weeping. The beautiful butterfly, meanwhile, fluttered happily above the muck and the mire of earth, forever freed from its confining shell.

Needless to say, Brisbane had the average funeral in mind. He sought to convey the idea that when our loved ones pass, it is foolish to remember only the cocoon and concentrate our attention on the remains, while forgetting the bright butterfly.



I am standing on the sea-shore. A ship spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the ocean. I stand watching her until she fades on the horizon, and someone at my side says, "She is gone." Gone where? The loss of sight is in me, not in her. Just at the moment when someone says, "She is gone," there are others who are watching her coming. Other voices take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!" That is dying.

—Henry Scott Holland

Dr. Werner von Braun, well known for his part in pioneering the U.S. space program, said that he had "essentially scientific" reasons for believing in life after death. He explained: "Science has found that nothing can disappear without a trace. Nature does not know extinction. All it knows is transformation. If God applies the fundamental principle to the most minute and insignificant parts of the universe, doesn't it make sense to assume that He applies it to the masterpiece of His creation — the human soul? I think it does."

Thoughts on our loved ones passing on

By David Brandt Berg

So many elderly people have a very hard time. Their friends are gone, many times their lifelong partners are gone, their life is difficult if not painful, and they can't do many of the things they used to enjoy. They may feel they are a burden to others. So older folks who know the Lord are ready when their time comes. They're ready, they're content, they're comfortable with going on to Heaven. And that's just as it should be.

The friends and loved ones they leave behind are the ones who have it hard when they go, because they miss their company. You think about the things you could have said or done for your friend, or relative, or husband, or wife, and you mourn for that. You are struck by a feeling of loss. But it's not a loss, you see? Your departed loved ones are just waiting up in Heaven for you.

They're pulling for you; they're rooting for you; they're praying for you up in Heaven. So don't feel they're far away. They're just around the corner, so to speak.