

BACK TO SCHOOL

Adeilson Salles



Illustrated by L. Bandeira

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Dedication

I would like to dedicate this book to all teachers of the Gospel, especially the devoted instructors from the Angel Gabriel Spiritist Association in Santos, Sao Paulo state.



Cissa was thrilled about going back to school.

Her mom has taken care of all her school supplies:

A brand new pink notebook, a lunchbox with a little strap, and a colorful backpack with wheels on it.

But what Cissa liked most was her new box of colored pencils. There were twenty-four colors – each one as pretty as the next.



No sooner had Cissa's mom, Yara, opened the bag with her daughter's school supplies than Cissa grabbed the box of colored pencils and started to draw, saying:

"I'll be the best student in school this year, Mommy."

Yara smiled and said:

"Great, Cissa! That all depends on you!"



“I’ll make sure my notebooks don’t have any dog ears.”

“Good deal, Cissa. We should take care of all our things. You’re lucky because you have all the school stuff you need.”

“Momma, some of the kids at school don’t have all the stuff they need. How come?”

“Cissa, dear, some parents just can’t afford it.”

“How come?”



“They may be going through some hard times, darling. That’s why you should take advantage of all the opportunities that life offers you and study hard. Life is a big school.”

“Life’s a school?” Cissa asked, scratching her head.

“Yes, dear. Every year we buy your school stuff so you can study.



“That’s right, Momma. I still have last year’s pencil set.”

“When you were born, God gave you a new little body as a gift so that you could attend life’s school. Your body is your spirit’s school stuff, and life is its school. That’s why it’s important for you to take care of your body.”

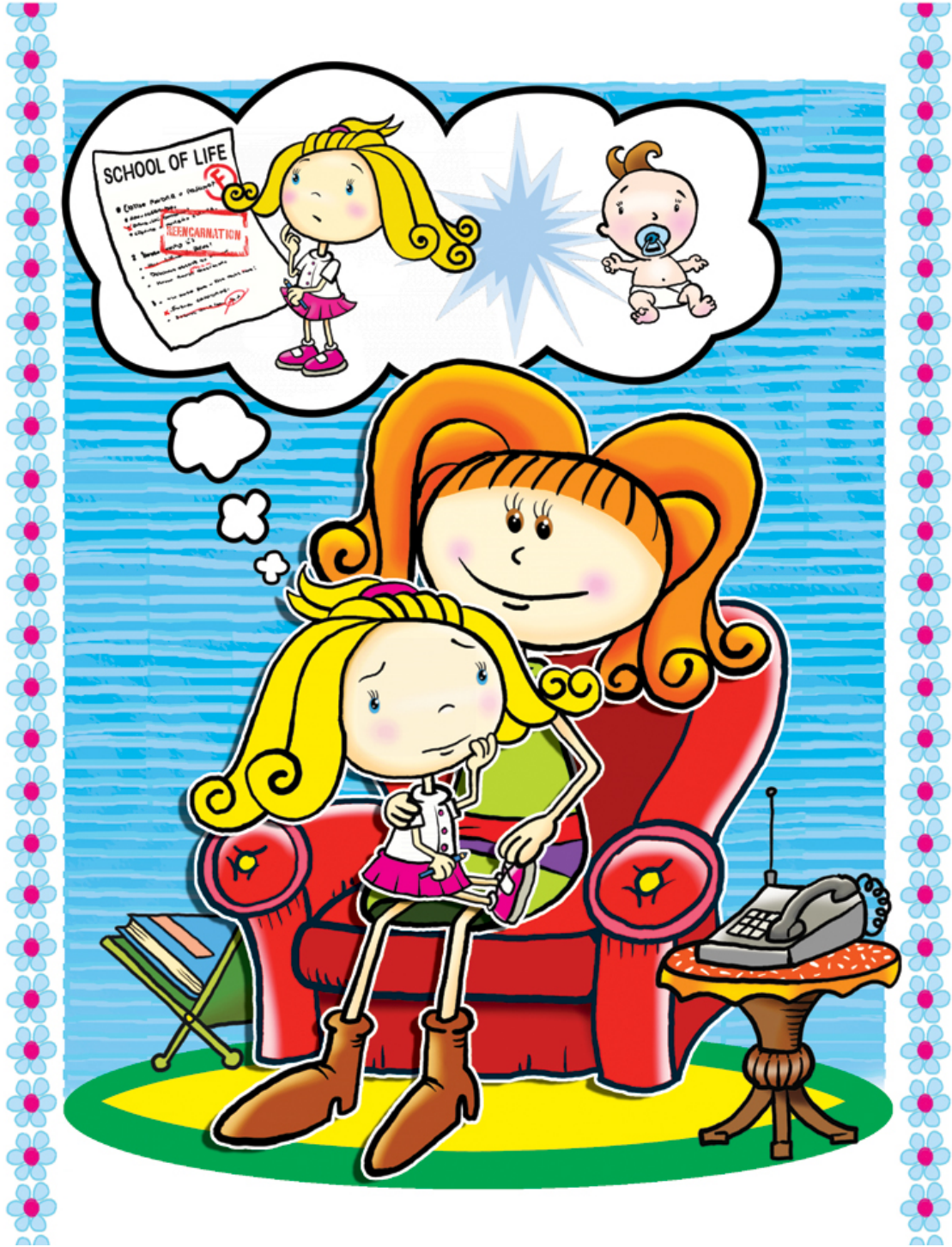


“And what should I do to take care of my body?”

“Eat well; don’t have any addictions; brush your teeth; do charity work.”

“Really, Momma? Doing charity work is good for the body?”

“It sure is. God is our Father and he lovingly sends us to life’s school so that we can learn and evolve. Charity is good for the spirit.”



“And if I get bad grades and have to repeat a year in the school of life, will God punish me?”

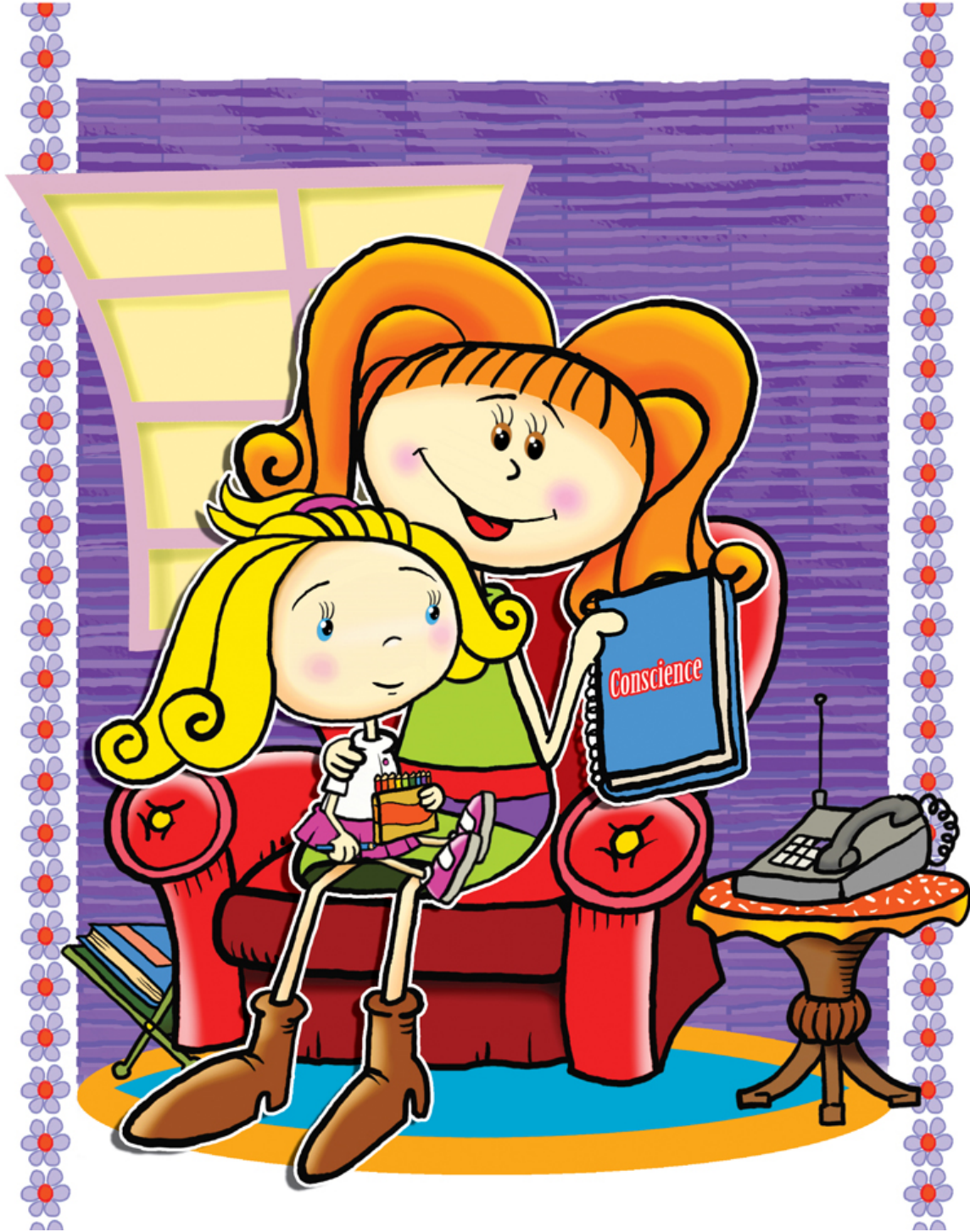
“No, darling. God won’t punish you. He’ll have you register again through reincarnation.”

“Reincarnation?”

“Yes, Cissa. Through reincarnation our spirit comes back to the school of life. That’s how we learn the lessons we failed before.”

“It’s like repeating the same grade in school?”

“Exactly!”



“Momma, where does our spirit do its lessons?”

“Our spirit does its lessons in a notebook called ‘Conscience’. Everything we do, both right and wrong, is written in there.”

“At school, I have subjects such as English, math and geography. What are life’s school subjects?”

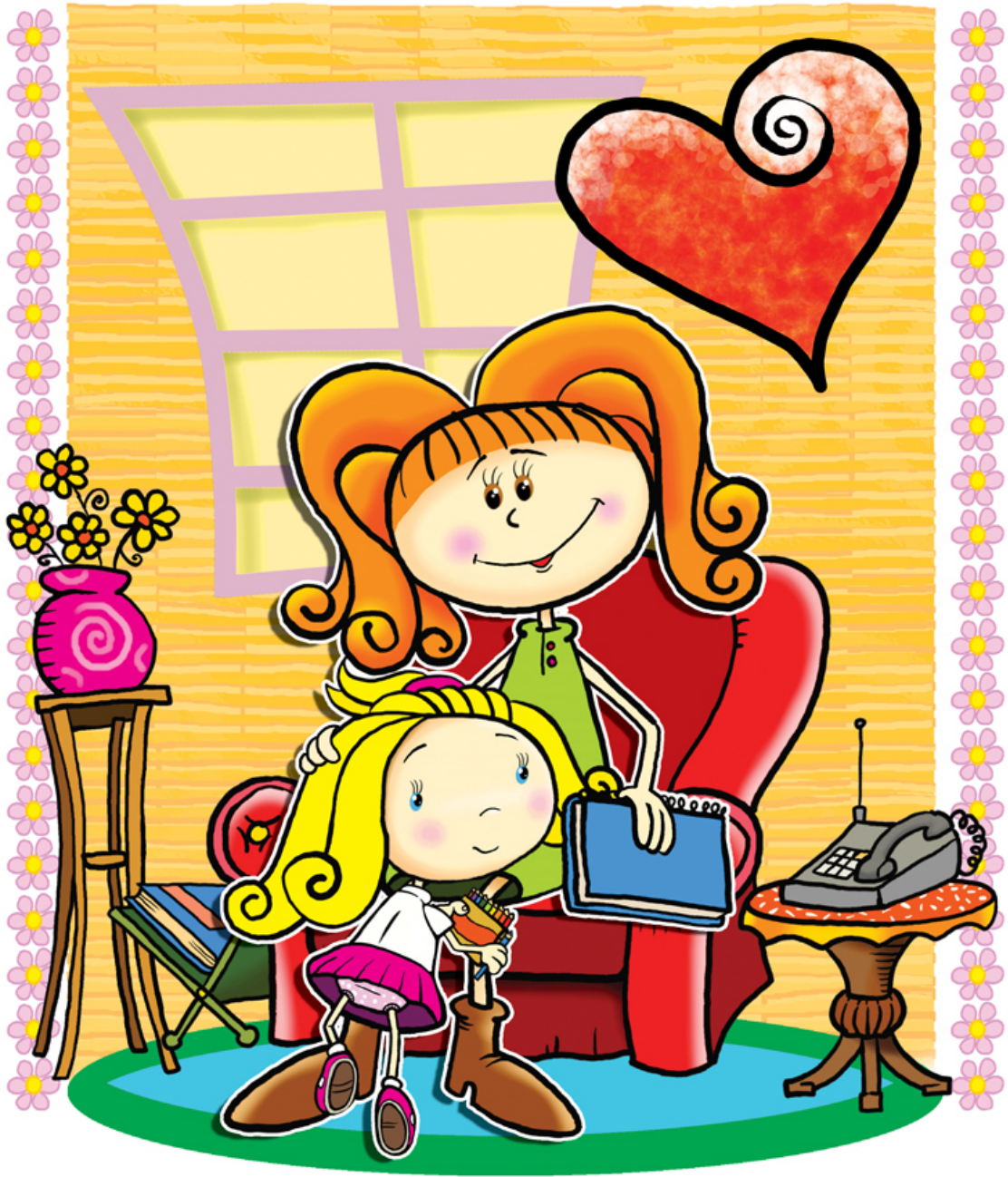
Yara grinned and answered:

“There are lots of subjects but the main one is Love. We need to learn how to love, forgive, and do charity.”

Surprised, Cissa listened curiously.

“Who’s the school of life’s Principal, Momma? And who was the teacher who taught you all those things?”

“Life’s school Principal is Jesus and the teacher who explained all these things to me was Allan Kardec.”



Cissa thought about it a little and then asked:

“Momma, does our spirit have pencils to write with in the school of life?”

“We could say that our attitudes are our pencils. We write our lessons by means of our attitudes.”

“What about the eraser? Does our spirit have an eraser to erase our wrongdoings?”

“The spirit’s eraser is forgiveness. When we forgive and forget unpleasant things, we erase all the wrongs that make us suffer.”

“How about the box of colored pencils? Does our spirit have one of those too?”

Yara thought it over for a while and then answered:

“The spirit’s box of colored pencils is its family and friends. Family and friends are what bring color to our life. That’s why we should take good care of our body so that we can take advantage of the opportunity to be here in the school of life.”



Cissa smiled and said:

“Wait a minute. I’ll be right back.”

“Where are you going? Come and help me put your school stuff away.”

“Just a minute, Momma! I’ll be back in a sec! I need to brush my teeth! I need to take care of my body so that I won’t have to repeat a year in the school of life.”



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